



Full service delayed by four months

Channel tunnel trains cut by new safety rules

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

SAFETY changes to the design of the Channel tunnel trains mean the operators are unlikely to meet passenger demand for the first four months of the service.

Eurotunnel will be able to run only two, rather than the promised four, trains an hour when the tunnel is due to open in June, 1993. There should be enough trains to meet demand by October, but the full fleet will not be in service until the following March.

The modifications, which will take the cost of the project to more than £8 billion, have been ordered by the Anglo-French intergovernmental commission responsible for Channel tunnel safety. Eurotunnel is considering a claim for compensation against the commission and legal action has not been ruled out.

Work on the tunnel itself is seriously behind schedule, and Eurotunnel's independent advisers are predicting that it will open two months late. The full international rail service between London, Paris and Brussels may also be

TUNNEL TIMETABLE

July 1987: Treaty of Canterbury ratifies tunnelling scheme
December 1989: Tunneling starts
December 1990: Breakthrough
June 1991: Tunnel finished
June 1993: Tunnel to open
June 1993: Restricted shuttle service starts, full service delayed
June 1993: Transmanche supertrain service scheduled to start
June 1993: French high speed line to open
March 1994: Full shuttle service due to start
1996: Belgium high speed line to open
1998: British high speed line to open

the full fleet of 24 trains on order from British, French and Belgian railways.

Fitting out the tunnels with the necessary mechanical and engineering equipment is also well behind schedule. In a letter to shareholders, Sir Alastair said the Transmanche Link sub-contractors had made a disappointing start and had wasted months of valuable time.

Independent advisers predict that the tunnel will not be ready to open until September, but Eurotunnel remains convinced that the lost time can be made up. The advisers had predicted that the boring of the tunnels would be completed late, but in the event it was finished on time. The terminals at Folkestone and Calais are now 85 per cent complete.

Details of Britain's Channel tunnel rail link route have now been agreed by Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, and Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, and may be announced tomorrow. But Whitehall said that final decisions on the financial arrangements had still to be taken.

Mr Rifkind may announce whether the government favours a southerly or easterly approach into King's Cross during his address during the transport debate at the Conservative party conference tomorrow. Such an announcement would be likely to provoke an uproar as Mr Rifkind is understood to have promised British Rail and MPs that the decision would be announced to Parliament.

Dividend delayed, page 23
Comment, page 25



Bullish Major seeks to rally the party

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

JOHN Major yesterday renewed his pledge that the Conservatives would not privatise the health service. He defended the right of Duncan Nichol, the NHS general manager, to condemn Labour's claims about privatisation.

On the eve of the Tory conference in Blackpool Mr Major sought to rally his party by being bullish about the economy, insisting that socialism was on the run all over the

world and insisting that the Conservatives were in tune with the people. He told a private dinner of party agents: "We do not have to hide our past or pretend that it never existed." But while ministers are delighted by the back-up from Mr Nichol, who said in

Continued on page 22, col 2

Health scepticism, page 8
Conference preview, page 8
Woodrow Wyatt, page 16
Diary, page 16

Prince to prepare a green vision for Britain

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince of Wales, already a best selling children's author and architectural critic, is expected within the next few days to sign up for a new book that will make the polemics of his *Vision of Britain* appear tame by comparison. The prince is about to put pen to paper on the vexed and highly politicised subject of organic farming.

Publishing sources expect a deal to be announced during the Frankfurt book fair, which opens this week. Several British publishers are said to be jostling for the privilege, and considerable potential profit, of producing the next royal trade, although it exists at the moment as little more than an idea, and certainly not a finished manuscript.

Since turning over much of his Gloucestershire farm at Highgrove to organic growing, the prince has become greatly enthused of the idea, and has had the satisfaction of seeing bread made from his chemical-free wheat appear on supermarket shelves. The views expressed in his forthcoming book are likely to be at variance with those of the government in general and John Gummer, agriculture minister, in particular.

Mr Gummer, who was immortalised in a news photograph of him stuffing a hamburger in the mouth of one of his daughters, has offered little support for organic farming.

During a speech earlier this year to the Royal Agricultural Society, of which he is president, the prince offered a preview of his ideas when he called for a nitrogen quota to be imposed on British farmers as a means of limiting their use of artificial fertilisers. The speech was said to have displeased senior agriculture ministry officials, who asked in vain for

that reference to be removed from the lecture.

The prince may also be expected to rally against the common agricultural policy, and present proposals for its reform which would reduce price support, on which British farmers rely, in favour of greater subsidies for small farmers, of which there are a great many more in France and Germany than in Britain.

The prince's book, which will be written in collaboration with an as-yet-unnamed expert in organic agriculture, is likely to be published late next year. Although his *Vision of Britain*, on the evils of modern architecture and planning, stirred much controversy, it was still no more than a point of view in a largely aesthetic debate. A discourse on farming may be expected to strike far nearer the heart of British and European politics.



The prince's book deal expected soon

Thatcher will not seek to be countess

The former prime minister insists that she has not sought an hereditary title for herself, reports Alan Hamilton

Margaret Thatcher, in a letter to *The Times* today, makes clear that she has not sought, nor will she seek, an hereditary peerage when she retires from the Commons at the next election. The former prime minister's statement is in response to a report last week confirming that the convention of offering an earldom to a retiring prime minister, although in abeyance, is still alive.

In spite of today's letter, Mrs Thatcher has recently made clear that she intends to pursue a parliamentary career in the Lords. Her comments suggest that she may prefer to accept the lesser ennoblement of a life peerage, as did her Labour predecessors Lord Wilson and Callaghan. An hereditary title, which would in time pass as an earldom to her son Mark, may well be regarded by such an essentially demotic leader as much too grand.

There is a world of difference between seeking a peerage and being offered it. Informal soundings will be made in the coming months, and whatever decision Mrs Thatcher reaches will appear in the honours list soon after the election.

Speculation continues to surround her future. Last week she told reporters in Poland: "As I am still a member of the House of Commons, the question of the Lords does not yet arise."

Although never abolished, the creation of new hereditary peerages fell Continued on page 22, col 5

Letters, page 17

Yugoslav air force jets bomb Zagreb palace

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN BELGRADE

THE Croatian capital of Zagreb came under attack by Yugoslav air force jets yesterday afternoon as federal forces launched their first attack on the city since the republic declared its intention of leaving the federation in June.

Two missiles were fired at the complex of government buildings in the old town, one hitting the 14th-century presidential palace. The leader of the federal presidency, Stipe Mesic, and the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman, were inside the building as the rockets fell. Both were unhurt.

Mr Mesic left the palace with his guards immediately after the attack and said: "This means war." Mr Tudjman said the army was now before the gates of Zagreb and waiting to strike. He appealed to the West to help.

The blast shattered windows throughout the old town and brought roof tiles crashing down, injuring several people. The baroque doors of the presidential palace were blown off and an inner courtyard was destroyed. Croatian television showed pictures of extensive damage to the interior of the palace. The attack appears to have been directed at the seat of political power in Croatia. The nearby 13th-century cathedral which dominates the city skyline was

unscathed, but the roof of the Catholic St Mark's Church was badly damaged.

The attack on the city of one million people came as the two breakaway republics of Croatia and Slovenia prepared to proclaim their full independence at midnight after a three-month moratorium imposed by the EC. The bombardment is the first on a European city since the second world war and raises fears of all-out war in Yugoslavia.

President Tudjman said the army was "at the gates of Zagreb and preparing to strike." He said the time had come for the West to show solidarity and called for the despatch of the US Sixth Fleet to the Adriatic and for Europe to close military airspace over Yugoslavia to prevent bombing attacks by the army.

Federal forces gave advance warning of the strike yesterday morning, announcing that an attack was imminent and declaring it a response to Croatian pounding of army garrisons on the outskirts of the city at the weekend. Croatia says that it had to raid the garrisons to acquire ammunition.

Air raid sirens wailed an hour after the announcement and people hurried to cellars in their blocks of flats and into the huge underground shelter beneath the old town, last

used in the second world war.

Even before the army's warning, President Gorbachev disclosed that he had sent an urgent warning to Yugoslavia's political and military leaders warning them against bombing Zagreb. He spoke of his "growing concern" at the heightening of military activity in Croatia and said a strike on the capital would lend the crisis "an even more dangerous dimension".

The message, which was passed on by the Soviet ambassador in Belgrade in the early hours of yesterday, said: "At this alarming moment, the Soviet leadership appeals urgently to the Yugoslav leadership and the army high command to show maximum responsibility and restraint."

Last night, expectation was high of further raids but it is unlikely that federal forces are aiming to occupy the city and risk guerrilla fighting with local forces there.

Missiles strike, page 11

New voice for London planned by Tories

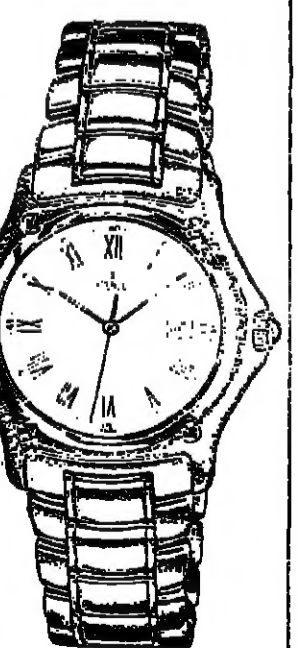
By DOUGLAS BROOM AND PHILIP WEBSTER

LONDON will have a new representative body after the next general election irrespective of the outcome. It emerged yesterday. The Conservatives are considering plans for a new voice for the capital which will be contained in their election manifesto, Chris Patten, the Tory chairman, disclosed.

Labour has unveiled proposals for a new, elected strategic authority for London to replace the Greater London Council which was scrapped in 1986. It would have powers over planning, transport and the arts.

Mr Patten said yesterday that there was a growing debate in the Conservative party about how to address London issues. "The outcome will, I am sure, find proper expression in our manifesto," he said. It appeared unlikely Continued on page 22, col 6

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Grand entrances: Linda Cierach and Suzannah Jackson turned the daily arrivals at court into a mini fashion show. Both invariably wore outfits designed by Miss Cierach, who is in the first picture

Assistant to royal dress designer found guilty

By RAY CLANCY

THE former personal assistant to Linda Cierach, the fashion designer who was yesterday found guilty of stealing clothes worth £15,000 and £10,000 cash that she used to buy a car and pay her rent.

Suzannah Jackson, aged 31, sobbed in the dock after the jury delivered unanimous verdicts on three charges of theft. Fifteen minutes later majority verdicts of 11 to one were delivered on a further six theft charges.

The case at Southwark crown court was adjourned until the end of the month for social enquiry reports and sentence. Jackson, of South Kensington, London, said she was extremely surprised by the result.

The court had been told that Jackson became close friends with "Miss" Cierach after being employed as a secretary in her design company in February last year. Miss Cierach, aged 39, who designed the Duchess of York's wedding dress, soon

promoted her to personal assistant and allowed her to handle almost all the company's financial matters.

The trial became a personal battle between the two women, each trying to outdo the other in the fashion stakes. Both appeared in court wearing Linda

Cierach outfits. On the final day Jackson chose a neat blue and green checked business suit while Miss Cierach wore a black wool short skirt with a glamorous ruby red jacket with gilt buttons.

In contrast, the disputed garments lay crumpled in plastic bags on a table at the

front of the dock. They resembled a bunch of rags awaiting sorting for a jumble sale rather than designer clothes worth £15,000.

The jury endured tears, denials of lesbianism, claims of a clairvoyant taking business decisions and accusations about Jackson's figure

being too large to wear Miss Cierach's designs.

The two women could not have been more different and avoided eye contact. Miss Cierach sat in the public gallery without showing much emotion. A few yards away her former assistant often stared into space as she

sat in the dock. The court was told that when Miss Cierach went on holiday to Italy in December she signed ten blank cheques for company business. On her return she discovered that Jackson had stolen three totalling almost £10,000 that were used to buy a car and pay her

rent. Jackson, who denied nine charges of theft, claimed that she bought the car worth £8,500 for company business and her boss had known all about it. She also claimed that Miss Cierach had said she could use company funds to help with her rent as long as she paid it back.

The court was also told that Jackson had clothes worth £15,000 that belonged to the designer. Jackson said the garments were given to her but Miss Cierach said she never gave her permission to wear them as they would not have been a good fit. Miss Cierach denied that she was trying to cover up the collapse of her business that went into voluntary liquidation in July.

Jackson left the court cradling her baby Isabel, aged two months, in her arms. "I am extremely disappointed by the verdict. I am very upset," she said. Miss Cierach left without comment.

Flair for failure, page 14

Fame without the fortune

By GERALDINE RANSON

LINDKA Cierach was once the best-kept secret of many London society women. The daughter of a Polish officer who fought with the British during the war, Miss Cierach was born and brought up in Rhodesia, a life that she loved.

She was sent to St Leonards-Mayfield, the exclusive convent in East Sussex, where she was nicknamed Chicky and began to show her prowess as a dressmaker. She set up her own business in London when she

was 26 and was soon successful. Much of her skill is in translating her customers' dreams into reality. She would take notes when they first met, begin sketching and later produce the final design.

When Sarah Ferguson commissioned a dress for her marriage to Prince Andrew, Miss Cierach was almost unknown. The wedding was to turn her name into a household word, but the fame and fortune that should have

followed failed to materialise. The designer set up a wholesale company to produce ready-to-wear evening and occasional dresses for exclusive shops.

However, with a staff of six only and a couture business demanding constant attention, she found it impossible to run both enterprises. Suzannah Jackson joined the company in February last year to ease Miss Cierach's burden, but the wholesale company was already in financial difficulties.



Exit: Suzannah Jackson and her baby leave court

Cancer detection rate up

By THOMSON PRENTICE
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE national breast-screening programme is detecting more cancers than predicted when it was launched, according to figures from its first full year.

Of almost a million women in the United Kingdom aged 50 to 64 who were invited to have their breasts screened by x-rays, more than 70 per cent took part, the organisers said yesterday. As a result, just under 50,000 were recalled for investigation and, of those, 4,383 women had cancerous lumps removed. That put the detection rate at 6.2 per 1,000 women, compared to the expected detection rate of 5.5 per 1,000.

"The lumps are being detected long before a woman would be able to detect them herself. Earlier detection offers a far better chance of successful treatment," Linda Rolf, of the programme, said.

The programme, costing £25 million a year, operates through 110 centres and is open to all women aged 50 to 64. Older women can be screened on request. The first year's results support the health department's prediction that by the end of this decade at least 1,250 women a year who would have died from breast cancer will not do so because they were screened. The disease kills about 15,000 women in Britain every year and is diagnosed in another 24,000 every year.

A few days before he retired last month as the government's chief medical officer, Sir Donald Acheson said that ritual self-examination was not very effective and could give women a false sense of security. The health department has sought to clarify the advice since. According to the government's advisory committee on breast cancer screening, there is no convincing evidence that a ritual of monthly self-examination reduces deaths from the disease or that it is more effective than "sensible regular breast self-awareness".

Leading article, page 17

Anti-bleeding drug will reduce transfusion need

By OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A DRUG that cuts the need for blood transfusions during and after heart operations and transplants will transform many other types of surgery, experts said yesterday.

The drug, Trasylol, helps to make operations safer, quicker and less bloody, and in some cases avoids the use of transfusions by reducing operative and post-operative bleeding, research has shown.

The protective effect of the drug, developed over 50 years ago by the German pharmaceutical company Bayer to treat disorders of the pancreas, was discovered by chance by London hospital specialists. Yesterday, it was approved for use in high-risk heart opera-

tions by the government's Medicines Control Agency, but specialists said that it would also become applicable to brain surgery, liver transplants and other complex procedures.

Ken Taylor, British Heart Foundation professor of cardiac surgery at Hammersmith hospital, west London, said the need for transfusions had been ended in many of his patients who normally would require four or more units of blood during coronary bypass operations. With three colleagues, he discovered the drug's anti-bleeding properties five years ago.

David Royston, a consultant anaesthetist at Harefield hospital, west London, who also played a key role in the initial finding, said: "We are now using this drug routinely in heart and heart-lung transplants. Patients that other hospitals refuse to handle and who would be condemned to death because of the high risks of bleeding during surgery are coming to us and surviving as a result of this treatment. In cases where torrential bleeding might be expected, it has tremendous benefits."

Trasylol, whose generic name is aprotinin, helps the natural blood clotting mechanisms to control excessive bleeding. It inhibits enzymes in the blood that usually cause bleeding to continue.

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Newspaper pays Oyston damages

THE millionaire businessman Owen Oyston accepted substantial damages and costs against *The Sunday Times* yesterday in settlement of a High Court libel action.

Mr Oyston, aged 57, had complained that articles alleging questionable share dealings involving him and Derbyshire county council pension funds were understood to suggest that his relationship with the council leader, David Bookbinder, was corrupt.

Apologising in court for articles published in September 1989, *The Sunday Times* said that it never intended to suggest that Mr Oyston was corrupt. It accepted that its analysis of share dealings was

at fault and that the businessman did not rig the market.

Later, Mr Oyston said: "I believe because of these articles my name is permanently affected in the City." He said his damages were over £100,000 and the case had cost the paper £1 million.

Paul Leighton, a BBC Radio 2 announcer and executive chairman of the Institute of Journalists, yesterday accepted a High Court settlement of £20,000 in damages against the *Derby Herald & Post* over an apology it printed about his column. He said it had implied that he had breached the institute's code by publishing untruths, and that the article had later been acknowledged as true and fair.

Libel law reform proposed

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

A RADICAL reform of the libel laws that could pave the way for many cases being settled without a jury has been proposed in a report by a committee headed by a High Court judge at the invitation of the Lord Chancellor.

The report also floats the idea of an arbitration scheme to settle small libel cases, with power to award damages of a figure of perhaps £1,000. The Law Society and the Bar have expressed interest in principle in the idea, which would help the "disfranchised majority" who cannot afford to sue for libel and yet do not qualify for legal aid.

The idea, put forward in the report, on which the Lord Chancellor has invited comments by November 1, is for an arbitration scheme to take some of the smaller libel cases out of the courts altogether. Under such a proposal, the newspaper industry might fund an arbitration service where complainants could recover modest compensation.

The two reforms have been put forward as part of a package of proposals to reform the law of defamation by a working group of the supreme court procedure committee under Lord Justice Neill.

The more controversial is for a new "offer of amends" defence that would, according to one committee member, give journalists, newspapers and others the chance to "put up their hands and admit they have made a mistake and throw themselves on the mercy of the court".

Instead of having a trial by jury, the judge alone would then award damages that would be much less than now. The only way the plaintiff could prevent the defendant taking such steps would be if he took on the burden of proving that the defendant had published the defamatory statement knowing it to be false.

The new defence would replace section four of the Defamation Act, 1952.

Sumo fans prepare to feast on fat of a foreign land

LIKE many Japanese passions, sumo wrestling is a mystery to most foreigners. Who would dream up a sport which requires two hulks to force-feed themselves to a point where only a Bedford truck or another sumo wrestler can knock them off balance, and then makes them climb on to a small clay mound and rub their bellies against each other's until one of them keels over?

A sumo bout can last a couple of seconds, rarely more than 20. Strangely, it can become addictive. Tomorrow night the Albert Hall in London will host the first major sumo tournament outside Japan. It will last five days, cost £2 million and give sumo's thousands of British fans a chance to see just how big these boys are in the flesh.

Salevaa Atisaac, a Samoan-American from Hawaii who fights under the name of Konishiki and became the first foreigner in the 2,000-year history of sumo to reach the rank of Champion, is the heaviest

Sumo wrestlers are fat but fit and the best can earn millions in winnings, reports Joe Joseph

wrestler on record. Just 27 years old, he weighs 36st 8lb and looks in need of urgent medical treatment.

All that concentration on turning himself into a hunk has taken its toll on his conversational skills, which make "Konishiki" mean "I don't know."

"How do you let your hair down?"

"You never let your hair down, otherwise you look like a girl."

"Metaphorically speaking."

"Whaaaat?"

Sumo wrestlers are misunderstood. Although fat, they are fit. They do

press-ups and swim, like giant walrus. Japanese girls can't get enough of them. Sumo wrestlers' wives are petite and pretty. There is also big money. Sumo's darling, Chiyonofuji, has just retired, aged 35. But since reaching Grand Champion rank in 1981, he has pocketed more than £4 million from salary, prize money and appearance fees.

But apprentices pay their dues. The diet is heavy on stews made of fish, chicken, soyabean curd and vegetables. Their duties can be feudal, including acting as a punchbag during training.

The Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington is discovering just how different it is having a sumo wrestler in Room 318 to having a sales rep. Beds have been lengthened and reinforced. Hand towels have been replaced with huge bath towels. And lavatories have been weight-tested. This is to make sure that a sumo wrestler in the loo of Room 318 does not join a guest in the loo of Room 218.



Big picture: a sumo wrestler records his London visit

Vanity Fair takes you inside the mind of Warren Beatty.

Norman Mailer duels with Warren Beatty on questions of art, women, fame, and the power of politics.

Jeffrey Dahmer.

What private hell has Dahmer made for himself? Brian Masters asks convicted serial killer Dennis Nilsen, whose case eerily parallels that of the Milwaukee murderer's.

Arthur Miller.

James Kaplan talks to the last of the theatrical giants about his brief, turbulent marriage to Marilyn Monroe and why at the age of 76 he has defied Broadway and is opening his latest play in London.

& Susan Gutfreund.

The former Pan Am stewardess wound up east as the King of Wall Street's Marie Antoinette. As her husband, the ex-chairman of Salomon Brothers, falls even further from grace, it looks as if the party's over for Susan.



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WHERE'S
THE FISH?

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Parents 'drank and danced as children were abused'

By KERRY GILL

PARENTS clapped, danced and drank wine as their children were sexually abused by a Church of Scotland minister at a disused quarry on the Orkney island of South Ronaldsay, a judicial enquiry was told yesterday.

The allegations of sexual abuse that led to nine Orkney children from four families being taken into care this year were detailed by Susan Millar, the senior social worker who helped to plan the dawn seizures of the children from the island.

The enquiry, before Lord Clyde, heard that the allegations from three other children, of the W family, aged seven, eight and nine, included claims that ritual sex took place in a disused quarry as parents drank wine and clapped and danced to music. The children were allegedly taken in turn into a circle by the Rev Morris McKenzie, the local Church of Scotland minister, and sexually abused.

After interviews with an official of the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the three children gave corroborative

evidence that sexual, penetrative abuse had taken place involving the four families' children, parents and Mr McKenzie. The four families whose children were taken as a result were referred to as the B, H, M, and T families.

Liz McLean, of the RSSPC, telephoned Mrs Millar on February 13 and disclosed that one of the three children, MW, claimed to have been sexually abused by Mr McKenzie. Abuse took place to music while everyone stood in a circle and Mr McKenzie, referred to as the "master", wore a black cloak. Another of the children, QW, depicted the scene in a drawing. Mrs Millar said, Q described the minister abusing a girl, MT, and Mrs T abusing a boy, BW.

In a further telephone call, Mrs Millar was told how B mentioned children being subjected to abuse. Mr McKenzie wore black, the children were in turtle suits and the adults drank wine. Each of the children was hooked with a crook by Mr McKenzie, taken into the circle and abused as the music played, the enquiry was told.

B, Mrs Millar said, had made the disclosures to Ms McLean after placing a chair against the interview room door. The corroborative statements by the three W children were all made on the same day.

Mrs Millar also told the enquiry that the RSSPC, the police and social workers had checked correspondence from islanders to the W children while in care. She said that the letters had come from Mrs T, Mr and Mrs M, whose children were eventually taken into care, the children of the B family, also seized, and Mr McKenzie and his wife.

She added that another of the W children, O, was said to have made "wild, passionate love" to Mr McKenzie.

Robber's jail term increased

A robber who was jailed for six armed raids on banks and building societies had his sentence increased from seven to 11 years by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Richard Hyland, aged 28, of Upper Holloway, north London, was given the original jail term by the Old Bailey in February after a plea for leniency by his wife. The Attorney-General referred the case to the appeal court, arguing that the sentence was too soft.

Hyland had previous convictions for robbery and committed his latest crimes while on the run from prison. He wrote to the court promising to go straight, but the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, said it was not Hyland's first such claim, and had to be viewed with suspicion.

Racial case

Res Albertie, a black driver aged 36, won £900 compensation against Ace Mini-cars of east London, which refused to employ her on the grounds that her skin was too dark. A Woburn Place industrial tribunal upheld a racial discrimination ruling against the firm.

Theft charge

Paul Crossland, aged 25, a former treasurer of the Oxford Polytechnic students' union, was remanded in custody by Oxford magistrates on a charge of stealing £40,000 from union funds.

Paintings gift

Seventeen paintings by L.S. Lowry have been left to Carlisle cathedral and Carlisle diocese by the Rev Geoffrey Samuel Bennett, a former vicar of Rockcliffe, Cumbria.

Lawyer's daughter freed from prison

EMMA Gittings, the solicitor's daughter who was tempted and bullied into crime by a "charmer", was freed from jail yesterday by the Court of Appeal.

Gittings, aged 25, of central London, had spent just over three weeks in prison since receiving a nine-month sentence for her part in a £428,000 bank conspiracy. She was jailed at Southwark crown court on September 13 for conspiracy to steal, forgery and using a false passport.

Yesterday, the Court of Appeal suspended the sentence for two years and put Gittings under a supervision order. Mr Justice Buckley, sitting with Lord Justice Glidewell and Mr Justice Hodgson, said that, although the sentence could not be criticised and in some circumstances might be considered lenient for such an offence, the court was satisfied that she had been

"influenced and manipulated" by older criminals.

One of those was Stephen Raymond, aged 46, a man with a criminal record, with whom Gittings was said to have plotted to steal £428,000 from the account of an American student. Gittings posed as Susan Krimholtz, daughter of a millionaire, and attempted to steal money from her account in Britain and transfer it to an account set up in Switzerland under Miss Krimholtz's name.

Gittings, described as "emotionally immature", was said to have had a romantic relationship with Stephen Raymond and to have fallen for his charm. She had met him while working for her father, a criminal lawyer.

Yesterday, Mr Justice Buckley said that Raymond had used threats towards Gittings, and had knocked her unconscious, damaging her hearing.



Rot of ages: left, pitted stonework in the Norman chapel, evidence of the ravages of damp and atmospheric changes. Right, riddled stonework of the north terrace wall

Crumbling Durham castle asks the world for £2.5m

By PETER DAVENPORT

AN APPEAL to raise £2.5 million for urgent repairs and restoration to Durham Castle, a World Heritage site, is to be launched today. The appeal will be international.

For more than 900 years the castle, along with the cathedral, has dominated the city skyline but the ravages of time, and the damaging effects of wind, rain, frost and atmospheric pollution have eaten away at the fabric of the building. Since 1837, the castle has been a college of Durham University and is in daily use.

In many areas the surface layer of the mellow sandstone has fallen away and recently chunks of stone fell from the gatehouse parapet, forcing £300,000 emergency repairs. Large holes riddle the stonework and on the exposed north terrace, the area most in need of urgent attention, some sections have completely crumbled away and the roofs of lead, copper and slate,

although patched in places, frequently spring new leaks.

The corrosive effects of the elements are evident inside and out. Damp and natural temperature changes are bringing mineral salts to the surface of the stone, causing further erosion.

In the Norman chapel, the castle's oldest part, those effects have caused shaling of

the stone surface in the Tunstall gallery, one of the most popular parts of the castle for the 40,000 people visiting it each year.

The university, custodian of the castle, has joined local businessmen to form an independent charitable trust to raise money to pay for a major repair programme. A recent survey has identified at least

ten areas where serious defects exist, and it is estimated that it will take £1.75 million over ten years to put them right.

Money raised beyond that figure will go into a fund to pay for work well into the future. If the initiative fails to raise the money, large parts of the castle will eventually have to be abandoned as being too dangerous for daily use and its

unique character will decline.

With the neighbouring cathedral, the castle was designated in 1987 as a World Heritage site, but that brought no additional finance. The university authorities must pay for its maintenance from the grants committee funding. There are about 6,000 students at Durham and 80 from University College live in the

castle, where its 500-year-old kitchens serve up to 1,000 student meals a day. The initial targets of the appeal will be local people, business and industry, but it will later be widened to become international. One idea being considered is the selling of chunks of the castle's crumbling stonework on commemorative mountings.

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Finger pointed at fish meals

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

SOME frozen fish dishes contain more coating than fish, according to a report published today.

Five of the eight fish burgers, nuggets and bites tested by the consumer magazine *Which? Way to Health* were more than half coating, and one product — Birds Eye Sealers — contained only 39 per cent fish. None was labelled with its fish content. The report advises health-conscious consumers to buy products with more fish and less

batter, and calls for improved labelling.

David Dickinson, the magazine's editor, said yesterday: "At the moment, you just can't tell what you are getting when you buy fish fingers, for instance." Past surveys have shown that the amount of fish in different brands of fish fingers ranges from 35 per cent to 75 per cent. Only fish cakes have a legal minimum fish content (35 per cent).

The frozen food manufacturer Findus, however, yes-

terday defended the ratio of seafood to batter in Findus Crostinos, which were found to contain only 42 per cent fish. "It is a total product. If someone wanted just fish, they would buy just fish," the firm said.

Michael Defratis, of the UK Association of Frozen Food Producers, said that bite-sized products needed more coating. "If the average housewife was to try to make them, she'd find she had an even smaller proportion of fish," he said.

WHERE'S THE FISH?	YOUNG'S LEMON SOLE GOUJONS	BERNARD MATTHEWS GOLDEN FISHES
46%	46%	50%
ICELAND CHUNKY COD BITES Cod, water, wheatflour, hydrogenated vegetable oil, maize flour, starch, salt, soya flour, raising agents, mustard, pepper	ICELAND SEA BURGERS Cod, water, vegetable oil, wheatflour, maize flour, starch, salt, mustard, raising agents, soya flour, pepper	Fish, breadcrumbs with natural colours: paprika and turmeric extracts, vegetable oil, batter, salt
41%	40%	39%
FINDUS CROSTINOS Cod fillets, potato, wheatflour, vegetable oil, starch, salt, baking powder, spices	BIRDS EYE SEALERS White fish, potato, breadcrumbs, vegetable oil, batter, salt, stabiliser E464, mustard	
42%	42%	

Source: Consumers' Association



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Police search for 'missing' gold bars

By CRAIG SETON

POLICE with metal detectors yesterday began a search for "missing" gold bullion worth £12 million at the former mansion of Baroness Susan de Stempel, who is serving a seven-year prison sentence for stealing from her wealthy aunt, the late Lady Illingworth.

West Mercia police moved into the grounds of the deserted Jacobean mansion, Heath House, at Clungunford, near Ludlow, Shropshire, searching for 30 gold bars that allegedly disappeared when Lady Illingworth was systematically stripped of her riches by the baroness.

The hunt came almost 18 months after the baroness, aged 57, was jailed at Birmingham crown court for plotting to steal £500,000 from Lady Illingworth, her "Aunt Puss", who died penniless in an old people's home in 1986. The baroness bought Heath House when she married her first husband, Simon Dale, an architect who was found battered to death in the kitchen there in 1987. She was tried for his murder and acquitted two years ago.

Since the baroness was jailed, the administrators of Lady Illingworth's estate have begun a civil action for the return of the 18in gold bars that they say are missing from her aunt's property. They have also listed paintings, coins, jewellery, cash and silverplate that they allege were never recovered by police.

The baroness has denied the gold bars exist and yesterday West Mercia police conceded that only one person still alive had testified that he had seen them - piled in a pyramid in a cellar at Lady Illingworth's London home nearly 25 years ago.

Last year solicitors for Lady Illingworth's estate were granted a High Court injunction freezing the baroness's assets to the value of £12 million, pending a civil hearing to recover the "missing" property.

Also joined in the action are Baron Michael de Stempel, her second husband, and three of her children from her previous marriage to Mr Dale, Marcus, Sophia and Simon

Wilberforce. Baron de Stempel was sentenced to four years in prison for his part in the plot.

Sophia Wilberforce, aged 27, received 30 months and Marcus Wilberforce, aged 28, 18 months. Simon Wilberforce was not involved. This year the baroness filed a petition for bankruptcy and Heath House, worth an estimated £400,000, is in the hands of bankruptcy trustees.

Detectives expect to spend a week searching the mansion. Yesterday curtains were drawn and shutters closed as officers searched the grounds.

Detective Inspector Mike Cowley, who investigated the theft plot, said that the only reported sighting of the gold was by Aubrey Appleton, of the firm Giltspur Bullens, which moved Lady Illingworth's possessions when she sold her London home in 1967. Mr Appleton said he went to the cellars and saw a sight he would never forget - a pyramid of bullion shining in the gloom.

Photograph, page 22

Judge dons wellies to see tree damage

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

THE High Court moved to the Kent countryside yesterday to hear the remarkable case of a millionaire farmer who faces his third jail term in eight years for allegedly damaging protected trees.

Hugh Batchelor, aged 63, whose family owns some 4,500 acres between Detling and Broad Street below the North Downs, is at the centre of a dispute with local authorities that goes back to 1977 when he undertook not to cut down trees subject to preservation orders. The latest case concerns allegations that he willfully damaged protected trees by allowing subsoil burning to get out of control and by ploughing so close that their roots were severed or fatally injured.

Deputy Judge Carter exchanged his robes for green wellingtons and windcheater and, accompanied by a barrister, court officials and local authority representa-



Where the answer lies: Gregory Stone, of Maidstone council, and Deputy Judge Carter (in white windcheater), followed by Hugh Batchelor (right) and his son Richard, tramp over Kentish fields yesterday

tives, trudged across Mr Batchelor's Howe Court estate at Hollingbourne, near Maidstone, to view the evidence.

The judge was shown oak trees with blackened and scorched trunks in the mid-

dle of a ploughed field. Mark Praed, tree officer for Maidstone borough council, said the discoloured foliage and thinning crowns of the trees showed they were under "severe pressure". Mr Batchelor said the trees were

already in poor shape before they were burnt. He had only felled trees that were dead or dangerous.

At one point he kicked a sod of earth and said: "Gentlemen, this is wonderful soil. These trees should

never have been here in the first place." Mr Batchelor has carved huge arable fields out of the wooded grassland of the North Downs, in places ploughing up a 1 in 5 gradient. The case continues today.

Auctioneer brushes with Hitler

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

TWO early works by a certain A. Hitler are causing a stir in Yorkshire, where they come under the hammer next Wednesday. It is not certain whether the pictures - pastel drawings of flowers dated 1901 and 1902 - will bring Andrew Hartley, the auctioneer, kudos or disgrace.

The official estimates are £200 to £300, but collectors of Nazi memorabilia could pay up to ten times that.

One of Mr Hartley's problems is that, owing to unpleasant developments in the artist's career, few experts admit to any knowledge of his work, so there are no sure ways of checking which are genuine. Another is that, by selling the works, Mr Hartley stands alone among auc-

tioneers. Sotheby's and Christie's do not sell Nazi memorabilia on grounds of taste, although there is a story of a German Jew buying a Hitler many years ago. Having paid well over the odds, he took it outside and burned it.

Hitler had a brief spell as an artist while he lived in Vienna shortly before the first world war. Occasionally the bland products of this unsuccessful career appear on the market, such as an amateurish self-portrait in oils, "discovered" by Werner Maser, a German professor, in 1987.

Maguire is sent to Germany

Donna Maguire was extradited from The Netherlands to Germany yesterday to be tried for alleged involvement in IRA attacks there, the Dutch justice ministry said.

Miss Maguire, aged 25, was taken by helicopter to Karlsruhe to appear before an examining magistrate, the ministry said. She is wanted in Germany on charges connected with the murder of Corporal Steven Smith, in Hanover, and the bombing of a barracks in Osnabrück.

Fortune donated
Sir William Leech, who made a £60 million fortune in the building industry, left only £496,928 net in his will, having given most of his money to charity. Sir William, of Mitford, Northumberland, died in December, aged 90.

Car plant closes
Ford has closed its main Halewood plant on Merseyside until Monday to cut its stock of cars. Demand for new cars remains poor in spite of large price cuts. The closure will mean the loss of more than 5,000 Escort and Orion.

Plea to students
Animal rights campaigners are trying to persuade new students to stop the use of animals in laboratory experiments at universities and polytechnics.

Colour problem needs clearing up

WHEN Henry J. Heinz, the founder of the beans to pickled onions company, launched his first food, horseradish, he tried a clever little marketing ploy.

Rival firms had been adding "fillers" of turnips to their products. By putting the food in a clear bottle the wily Mr Heinz proved to a worried public that his was pure horseradish; the rest is history.

What Heinz, along with the rest of the bottling and food companies, could not have foreseen was the impact of that move on Britain's recycling industry. A green and brown bottle mountain is looming as consumers, encouraged to meet government and European Commission recycling targets, are poised to rally round the bottle banks.

According to John Barton, head of the materials recovery division at Warren Spring Laboratory, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, the country produces about 70 per cent clear glass and about 30 per cent brown-green glass. He said: "When you look at the bottle banks the level is about 40 per cent clear and 60 per cent brown-green... this is because we import wine and beers in green and brown bottles and export spirits in clear glass bottles."

Ketchup bottles, of which 50 million of the Heinz variety are made in Britain a year, worsen the trade imbalance because the public is less eager to carry sticky bottles to bottle banks.

The difficulty facing the recycling industry is how to resolve the disparity, given

Nick Nuttall, continuing his survey of recycling, takes a look at glass bottles and jars

that only sparse amounts of green and brown glass can be used to make clear glass.

About 538,000 tonnes of glass is being recycled annually, but the government's target is about 910,000 tonnes by the end of the decade. According to Mr Barton, half the green glass produced here is from recycled sources, whereas the figure for clear and brown glass is about a tenth. "If we double the rate of recycling to between 500,000 and 700,000 tonnes without attracting more clear glass we are going to hit problems," he said.

How to handle the threatened green and brown glass bottle mountain is exercising the minds of waste recovery experts. In spite of many experiments, the experts agree that the most successful way to recycle is to process waste back into its original use.

Mr Barton believes that it might be time for Britain's bottlers, food makers and retailers to ask if some products need to be packaged in traditional colours of glass. He said that the industry had also to decide whether packaging glass needed to be as clear as it was. "It should not matter that much because jars, for example, often have labels wrapped all the way round."

SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT SCOTCH WHISKY.

GLENMORANCIE

GEORGE MACKENZIE. Mashman.

IT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE and the annual Glenmorangie party was in full swing. Somewhere a door opened. A sudden waft of icy Firthside air provoked a flurry of goosepimples. And a briskly pedalling figure disappeared into the mist outside. 'Who was that?' asked a visitor. 'Oh, only George Mackenzie. He's away up to the mash-house to tend the mash.'

Even those who do not work at the distillery know of George's dedication to the mash. Ask him why on Christmas Eve, Burns' Night, even Hogmanay he will give up all to be with his charge, and he will reply: 'Time and the mash wait for no man.'



HANDCRAFTED by the SIXTEEN MEN of TAIN.

INTERCITY

Tories go out to convert public from scepticism on health



Baroness Denton: team fails to reverse opinions

ATTEMPTS by Duncan Nichol, chief executive of the National Health Service, to dispel fears that the Tories are about to privatise health care yesterday underlined the government's frustration at failing to get a coherent message across to the electorate.

Despite drafting in Peter Gummer, chairman of Shandwick, the public relations company, to help to advise health ministers, over 62 per cent of people questioned in a Mori poll still believe the Tories are about to privatise the NHS. Government advisers are now caught in the conundrum of wanting to counter Labour propaganda without sounding too defensive, while keeping the health service out of the press. The

Jill Sherman examines the reasons for the Tories' failure to convince people that the NHS is safe in government hands

public perception that the service is not safe in Conservative hands stems from the birth of the NHS in 1948. The scheme was put up by Labour and opposed by the Tories, a fact which will always undermine any Tory claim to support the system.

Although the Conservatives have presided over a National Health Service longer than Labour, the party can never claim the NHS as its own and is unlikely to win an election on it. As one adviser put it: "We got off on the

wrong foot." When Mrs Thatcher decided to set up an NHS review in 1988, the public became more sceptical. Although the government opted a year later to alter the structure of the service rather than change its basic financing, that was never relayed back to the public.

Kenneth Clarke, as health secretary, announced the health service reforms as the most radical change in the history of the service. Hospitals would be set up as independently run trusts in an internal market where health

authorities would trade with each other like any commercial business. Words such as "customers", "contracts" and "competition" peppered Mr Clarke's speeches and it was hardly surprising that the public thought the NHS was being privatised.

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, is a firm believer in the reforms and wants to see as many hospitals become self-governing as possible. However, since taking the health post last November he has tried hard to try to decommercialise the language. "Customers" have become "patients" again, "contracts" have become "service agreements". The market remains but in a regulated form. The other obstacle

is that the public believes people in white coats rather than men in grey suits. The perception is that doctors tell the truth about the health service reforms and ministers ignore medical advice.

Mr Waldegrave has tried to build bridges with doctors over the past ten months to narrow the rift created by the combative Mr Clarke. However, many doctors are opposed to the reforms because they threaten their autonomy and their clinical freedom. Many fear that patient care will suffer if health care is seen as a marketable commodity.

Mr Waldegrave has drafted in several advisers to help him to convince the public that the reforms will improve patient care

and shorten waiting lists. Lucille Campey, who previously headed the party's NHS research centre, spends her time exposing apparently harmless pressure groups opposing the reforms as militant hot beds.

Peter Gummer and Baroness Denton, another public relations expert, were appointed to the NHS policy board to advise the health secretary on communications. The team has so far failed to turn around public opinion, partly because of its leader's image.

Mr Waldegrave is passionately concerned with reshaping the nation's health. However, he perhaps epitomises the sort of person who most people think use private health care.

Conservative conference

Major has tough task to offer fresh momentum

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Conservative party launches its annual conference in Blackpool today under unexpected pressure, after Labour's success in Brighton, to match their opponents' show of cohesion.

Ministers admit that they have to offer something more forward-looking than the predictable round of union-busting and Kinnock-baiting that characterised the period of phoney war until the November election option was ruled out.

John Major, it is accepted, has to lift the morale of the troops after having to reveal that he could not risk a November election, and seeing Labour regain the lead in opinion polls.

The later election option offers the chance of a cheering Budget, some evidence to back up ministerial claims that the economy has turned the corner and more money in the pockets of those whose mortgage rates are fixed annually in January. But it also carries the risk that the council tax legislation this autumn will remind everyone of the hated poll tax. The Tories are

also likely to lose the by-elections at Kincardine and Deeside and at Langhaurgh. The Maastricht summit may result in a Tory split on Europe and running close to the wire always carries the risk of an unexpected crisis.

Labour's increasing confidence and professional conference management in Brighton have ensured that the government must offer something more this week than "steady as she goes" competent government. The PA/ICM poll showing Labour's policies more popular on six of the nine top issues has alarmed the Tory faithful and ministers are once more on the defensive over the NHS.

The "newness" factor that helped John Major earlier is a wasting asset. The Tory strategy was to have been to switch public attention back on to inflation and management of the economy. But there are fears that ministers have spent too long assuring Tory workers that being level-pegging or a few points behind at this stage of a recession is no bad achievement.

Tory monetarists are warn-

ing people of the money supply falling at a catastrophic rate. And, although good inflation figures on Friday will help Mr Major to sound optimistic about the economy, inflation is running well behind unemployment and the NHS as an issue of public concern.

Some Tories are aware of the danger that the government now appears to be hanging around simply waiting for better economic times to come. There is also no evidence from the polls that new promises to privatise British Rail and British Coal evoke any public enthusiasm.

Mr Major has a real task on his hands. He has ruled out any idea of freshening things up with a cabinet reshuffle. His Chancellor is being advised not to risk another interest rate cut in present circumstances. There is, in addition, little evidence of an effective Tory battle plan.

The prime minister will get his ovation anyway. But he has to make a choice between carrying on the way things were under Margaret Thatcher or charting an altogether new route for the Nineties.

Tories can take some comfort from polls

By IVOR CREWE

CONSERVATIVES know that they have a tough fight on their hands.

In 1983 and 1987 Margaret Thatcher rode to victory on a credit-boom and popular reforms, aided by a Labour Opposition saddled with unsellable policies, factional division and poor leadership. The situation next year will be very different: a patchy recovery (at best), no popular legislative reforms to boast about, and a moderate, professional and forcefully led Labour Opposition.

Yet a comparison of the present polls with those eight months before the 1983 and 1987 elections (see table) suggests that the Conservatives are not doing particularly badly and have a good prospect of recovering sufficiently to win the next election, albeit with a smaller majority.

Take the vote intention figures. In September's poll of polls, the two big parties were neck and neck. But postwar Conservative governments have trailed behind Labour eight months before the election in every case except October 1982 (when the Falklands victory put them ahead of Labour).

Every full-length postwar Conservative government has recovered ground in the final eight months. The smallest "recovery swing" has been 2 per cent, which would be enough to re-elect the present government with a paper-thin majority. The average recov-

Standing of the Conservative vote and its poll

	Sept 91	Oct 85	Oct 82	Mar 84
Con % majority in poll of polls	0	-2.5	+11	-8.5
% approving of government's record	54	53	48	41
% satisfied with Prime Minister	54	36	46	42
% thinking opposition leader's doing a good job	34	47	20	87
Popularity gap between PM and Opposition leader	+20	-11	+26	-25
Confidence in government's handling of economy	-38	-39	-18	NA
% confident minus % not confident	+12	-3	+7	NA
Futures of economy in next 12 months (% optimistic minus % pessimistic)	+8	+2	+1	NA
Household finances in next 12 months (% optimistic minus % pessimistic)				

ery swing has been 4 per cent, which would produce an ample majority of about 70.

Conservatives can take similar comfort from other poll indicators, such as the government's "satisfaction rating". In last month's Gallup 9000, it stood at only 34 per cent. But these ratings are usually poor: eight months before the last election it was just as low (33 per cent) while the proportion of dissatisfied was higher (56 per cent compared with 52 per cent). The public likes to grumble.

In the key area of economic management, the picture is similar. Last month a mere 26 per cent thought the government was "handling the economic situation properly", 64 per cent did not. But at the corresponding stage before the last election the figures were virtually identical: 25 per cent did; 64 per cent did not. Moreover, widespread criticism of the government's performance does not translate into confidence in Labour.

The public's greater con-

fidence in the economic competence of the Conservatives under John Major, however, has grown steadily over the summer. Last month the gap was 47 per cent to 29 per cent. Exact comparisons with the run-up to the 1983 and 1987 elections are not available, but a similarly worded question before the closely fought 1964 election found a narrower gap of 44 to 32 per cent.

The best item of poll news for the Conservatives, however, is the public's assessment of the party leaders. On the two postwar occasions when Labour has overtaken a Conservative government (1964 and February 1974), the Labour leader was more popular than the prime minister during the preceding eight months, marginally in the case of Wilson over Heath, massively in the case of Wilson over Douglas-Home. Despite the Labour conference boost to his popularity, Neil Kinnock still trails behind Mr Major

Ivor Crewe is professor of government at Essex University.



Guarded arrival: an armoured bus, escorted by police motorcyclists and with headlights shining, lurches round a corner as it takes Tory delegates from Blackpool station to the Winter Gardens conference centre yesterday

Lord King names price of support

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

LORD King of Wartnaby, the British Airways chairman, yesterday effectively laid down the terms of his renewed financial support for the Conservative party with a 40-page "manifesto" distributed at the Tory conference.

Lord King, who earlier this year cancelled a £40,000 contribution from the airline to party funds, said that BA was not asking for special favours. "What we do require is the ability to compete with the rest of the world without one arm tied behind our back." Many in power took a parochial view of the nation's airline industry, he said.

The campaign follows a series of disagreements with

the government over decisions which have seen the airline lose much of its privileged position at Heathrow at a time when business has been hit by the recession and the Gulf war.

The booklet urges the creation of a genuinely open market in air transport, better road and rail links to airports, better air traffic control and improvements in the way slots are allocated at congested airports.

The manifesto adds: "Britain is the only country in the world to discriminate positively in favour of smaller airlines at the expense of its largest - weakening the strong to strengthen the weak."

SDP money-raiser backs government

GEORGE Apter, a leading member of the SDP and one of the party's main fund-raisers, has joined the Conservative party and urged all members of the SDP to do likewise.

Mr Apter, one of the SDP's four trustees and a member since its formation in 1981, has raised tens of thousands of pounds for David Owen's party, but now says that his fund-raising talents will be put to work for the Conservatives. Ten years ago, Mr Apter, a businessman, funded national newspaper advertising that helped to make the SDP a credible national force.

Mr Apter said: "David Owen said to me, 'There is not much difference between the Social Democrat policies of the SDP and the policies of

this government under John Major'.

"The fact that he and the Conservatives haven't got together is sad, as in Mr Major we have a great Social Democrat. SDP supporters should rally round the government now as there really are only two serious parties in Britain, Conservative and Labour. The Conservatives are obviously the party to support to the benefit of Britain and all who live in it. John Major is the humane face of new Conservatism."

Mr Apter, who runs a company supplying props to the television and advertising industries, said that the recession was nearly over. He had noted a rise in orders from makers of television commercials.

Labour steals the thunder in backbench poll

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

THE big name casualties from cabinet reshuffles of the Thatcher years have faded fast on the back benches, according to a Mori poll of their fellow MPs.

When a sample of 126 MPs was asked to name the most impressive backbenchers, irrespective of party, three Labour left-wingers emerged top of the list. Not a single Tory. Blackpool conference attendees this week will note, made the top four.

Wit clearly pays. So Tony Banks, the Newham MP who once greeted the announcement that Tory industrial plans were to be boosted by a series of ministerial break-fasts around the country with the sally that the menu would no doubt be "thin gruel, hard cheese and poached bullshit", is top of the list, named by 20 per cent of MPs from all parties. In

HOW MPS RATE BACKBENCHERS (%)

MP	All Tories	Opp
Tony Banks	20	20
Dennis Skinner	13	8
Tony Benn	12	5
Tam Dalyell	11	7
John Biffen	10	11
Mrs Thatcher	10	17



Banks: top of list in all-party vote

time a party had set out to win with an ear trumpet. And in Brighton he commented last week that President Bush's new defence statement would "never have got past the current Labour national executive".

The only Tory in the first



Biffen: sole Tory name among the first four

five (on 10 per cent) was John Biffen, one of the few Thatcher cabinet discards to defy the laws of political gravity by continuing to find space in the newspapers with his speeches after his departure from the front bench.

Despite that, coarsening

only in sixth place, followed by the now party-less David Owen, her predecessor Edward Heath, the relieved reselection victim Frank Field, and Norman Tebbit, once dubbed by Michael Foot the "semi house-trained polecat".

Despite their electrifying resignation speeches, neither Nigel Lawson, the one-time Chancellor, nor Sir Geoffrey Howe, the one-time foreign secretary, made the top ten. Mr Banks's achievement, in the poll conducted from May to July by Mori as part of a survey of attitudes to business and industry, is that he topped the voting among Opposition and Tory MPs.

Mrs Thatcher, in a reminder of the more confrontational style of politics she epitomised, came a clear second among Tory MPs, with 17 per cent support, but gained not a single vote from the Opposition benches.

John Mellencamp



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WH SMITH
More to discover

Envoys call for Haiti peace force

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

A TEAM of diplomats set off again for Haiti yesterday with a new international proposal to set up a 500-member stabilising force as they try to persuade the leaders of last week's coup to allow Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the overthrown president, to return to power.

A source close to the delegation from the Organisation of American States said the proposed multinational force would contain police, human rights observers, administrative officials and a small military contingent. The force would "try to stabilise things" in Haiti before Father Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president, would return to Haiti, he said.

The nine-member OAS delegation flew to Port-au-

Prince after obtaining the support of the 34-member regional organisation. Their latest mission followed a three-hour meeting with Fr Aristide on Sunday in which they made clear that the international community required him to correct abuses of power, including some human rights abuses.

The OAS team spent the weekend in Washington after failing to persuade the three-man military junta to restore Fr Aristide to power. At the weekend officials acknowledged that Fr Aristide, a Roman Catholic priest, endorsed or encouraged the use of vigilantes who backed his seven-month-old rule.

The OAS, which groups the United States and Canada with 32 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, has threatened to impose economic and trade sanctions on Haiti if Fr Aristide is not reinstated. Sources in Washington said the OAS delegation would reject a request by General Raoul Cedras, the head of the junta, for elections within three months as a condition for the president's return.

But one foreign official said that interviews conducted last week in Haiti by the OAS delegates with business leaders, human rights groups and parliamentarians had tempered their earlier view that Fr Aristide was immune to criticism that he had abused his constitutional privileges.

The team aired its concerns at the meeting with Fr Aristide. Afterwards, he is-

Turkish diplomat is shot

Athens — Unknown gunmen killed the Turkish press attaché in Athens yesterday in an attack likely to raise tensions between Greece and Turkey. Cetin Gorgu, aged 28, was shot five times at close range shortly after getting into his car in a suburb to drive to the embassy (Chris Eliou writes).

The attack came one day before the funeral of the ecumenical patriarch Dimirios of Constantinople, who was based in Istanbul, and the election of a new leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians. Police said the killing bore the hallmarks of the November 17 group, which wounded the Turkish chargé d'affaires in Athens in July. Constantine Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, who is due to attend the patriarch's funeral today, said the murderers aimed "to create problems in Greek-Turkish relations and undermine Greek interests".

Queen attacked

Nairobi — Kenyan dissidents pressing President Moi for political reforms expressed anger at a brief stop-over by the Queen, saying it gave Mr Moi support. The Queen was due to leave Kenya today for Namibia and then Zimbabwe, where she will attend the Commonwealth summit.

Gas kills 28

Peking — At least 28 people died after gas from a leaking lorry drifted over villages near Shangrao in Jiangxi province, southeast China, last month. More than 300 people were affected, the newspaper China Society said. The agricultural chemical leaked after a safety valve on the tanker was damaged by trees. (Reuters)

Sale takes off

San Francisco, California — A Ford Tri-Motor "Tin Goose" that Charles Lindbergh flew for American Airlines fetched a record price, thought to be more than \$1 million (£574,000), and Cary Grant's Conair 240 flying limousine went for more than \$100,000 at an aircraft auction here. (AP)

Golden state lures gilt-edged Americans

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

CALIFORNIA's ascendancy over New York received a boost yesterday with the publication of *Forbes* magazine's annual list of the 400 richest Americans.

The aptly-named Golden State leaptfrogged over New York state into first place as the preferred home of 75 of America's richest men to New York state's 71. In the first list in 1982, New York state had 88 of the *Forbes* Four Hundred.

Although New York City still has more multimillionaires than any other metropolitan area in the United States, with 66 to Los Angeles' 29, none of the top ten richest Americans kept their principal residence in the increasingly remote Big Apple. The top New Yorker was the publishing magnate S.I. Newhouse, who owns *The New Yorker* magazine. He came in 12th with \$2.8 billion (£1.6 billion).

Despite the recession, *Forbes*'s latest list included a record 71 billionaires, up from 66 last year. To make the list at all, a person had this year to have a minimum of \$275 million. In the top spot for the third year was John Kluge,

aged 77, the German-born immigrant who built a \$5.9 billion fortune on holdings ranging from cellular telephones and Orion Pictures to the Harlem Globetrotters.

Second place went to William Henry Gates III, aged 35, of Seattle, who sprang from 16th place last year to challenge Mr Kluge with an estimated value of \$4.8 billion. Mr Gates made his fortune by founding Microsoft Corp with his friend Paul Gardner Allen, aged 38, of Mercer Island, Washington, who was 16th on the list with a net worth of \$2.4 billion. Sam Moore Walton and his family held the No 3 through No 7 ranks with their collective \$2.2 billion of stock in the family's discount chain, Wal-Mart Stores Co.

Among the biggest losers was Ron Perleman, the 1980s corporate raider who fell from third place with \$2.8 billion last year to No 30 this year with \$1.8 billion. The Kennedy clan saw its bank balance dwindle from more than \$700 million to \$350 million. *Forbes* attributed the drop to the weak property market and the need to support 53 dependants.



Special guest: Elizabeth Taylor's mother, Sara, is escorted to her limousine as she makes her way to her daughter's eighth wedding, to Larry Fortensky

Daredevil reporter drops in on Taylor wedding fantasy

FROM WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

A DARING parachutist working for the *National Enquirer* emerged yesterday morning as a hero of Elizabeth Taylor's extravagant eighth wedding, since he was the only uninvited guest to get into what the American breakfast news networks heralded as the "wedding of the century".

Shortly before 6.30pm, when the sun was beginning to set on the scorched grass hills of Neverland Valley, Scott Harris plunged from a small aircraft with a straw-berry-red parachute and landed, to the consternation of guests, in the middle of the ceremony with a video camera strapped to his forehead. This was transmitting live even as he was arrested and led away towards Santa Barbara jail.

The exceptionally tight security measures employed to prevent the world's press and paparazzi from getting a glimpse at the fantasy ceremony inside Michael Jackson's 2,500-acre ranch included not only the secret service (for the Reagans), the pop singer's own squad of bodyguards, but also a 60-

strong crack force of Israeli Mossad guards hired by Miss Taylor.

The American tabloids lapped up the bait and ended up resorting to increasingly desperate and farcical measures to cover the wedding. *Star* magazine hired a seven-storey zeppelin-style balloon so that it could block out the view of the wedding from its tabloid rivals, who were

circling in helicopters like a frenzied swarm of giant black hornets. Sadly their plans went awry when the craft exploded after flying only a few feet.

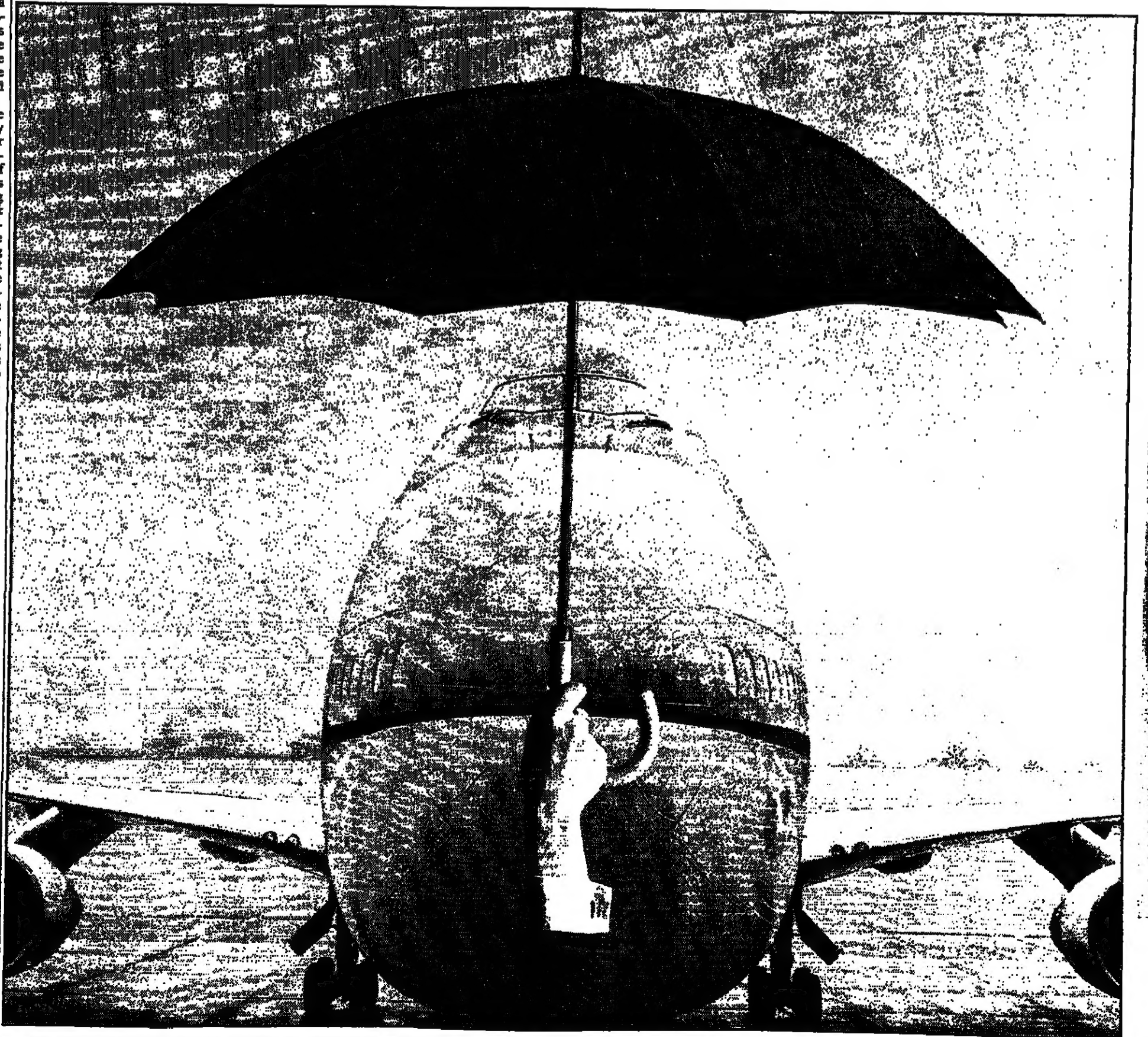
Another daredevil reporter flew into the Neverland Valley in a microlight, but he carried out a crash-landing after a close encounter with a helicopter blade.



Flying squad: a helicopter circles over the ranch in search of pictures as the parachutist descends

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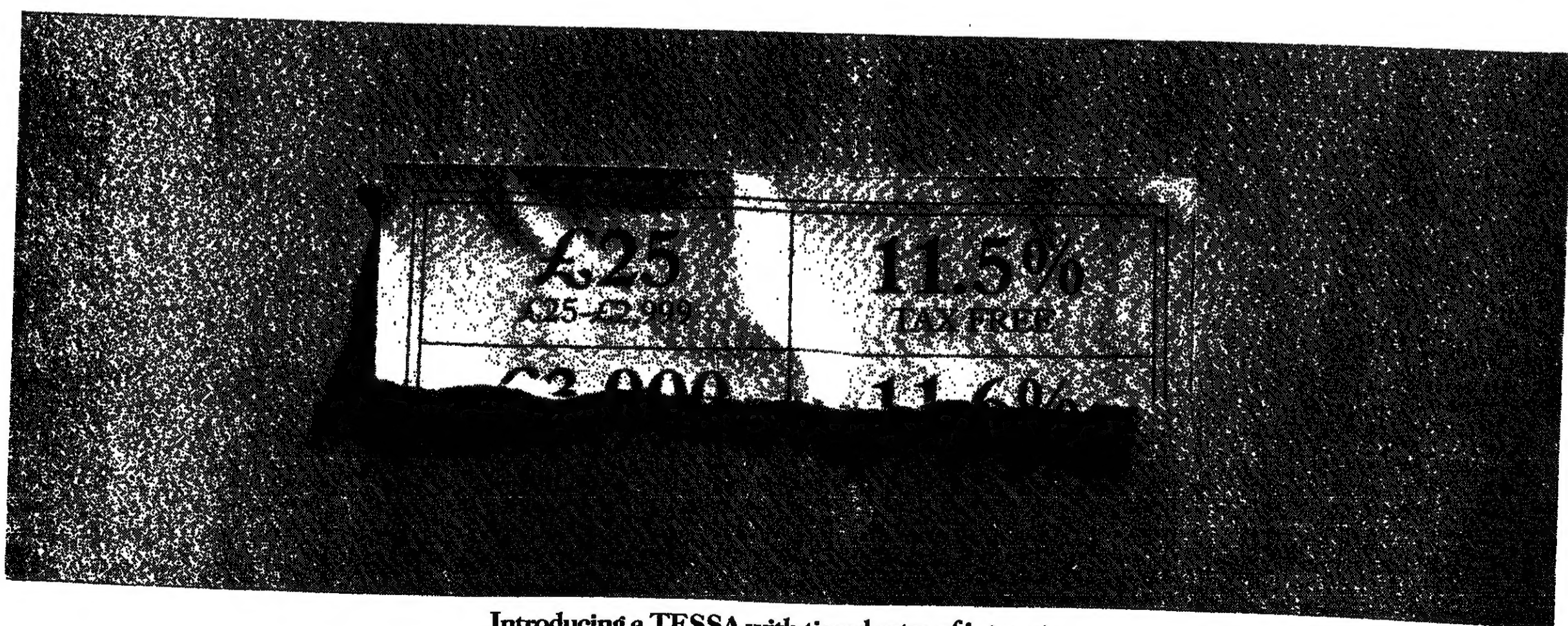


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Croats defy the army at their gates as EC searches for economic lever to end conflict

Missiles strike into the heart of Zagreb

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ZAGREB

YUGOSLAV federal army commanders launched a direct assault on the Croatian government yesterday when an air force jet fired two missiles near the parliament building and presidential headquarters.

Damage was extensive, and several policemen appeared to have been hurt in the explosion. A pall of black smoke hung above the area near the presidential compound and parliament where Croatian MPs are expected to vote for full independence this morning. After the day's tenth air raid alert, a Soviet MiG jet streaked low through the sky, breaking the sound barrier before unloading the missiles, which crashed into the heart of Old Zagreb near the parliament and the cathedral.

"They were aiming for the parliament building, no question about it," one official said. "They have had their eye

on it for weeks and to do it now before the independence declaration is a perfect gesture."

Milovan Balesic, Croatia's deputy information minister, reached by telephone in an underground bunker near the site of the attack, said one of the missiles struck barely 50 yards from the presidential compound. Franjo Tudjman, the president, he said, was preparing to leave the area for safer ground. "This is part of the total war waged by the Serbians and Yugoslav army,"

he added. A near-hysterical atmosphere gripped the Croatian capital. Explosions rocked the city, and shells slamming into targets on the outskirts were audible. Air raid sirens wailed, and almost all of Zagreb's one million inhabitants raced for the air raid shelters. Troops were moved to secure the city's outskirts.

The people of Zagreb are bracing themselves for a Serbian onslaught, and are turning to nationalist — even fascist — Croatian symbols of defiance. They also desperately hope the West will intervene on their behalf. Dr Tudjman said in an address to the nation that the federal army was "at our gates" and intent on destroying the city. This would be "one more pearl in its necklace of devastation of Croatian towns" he said. He appealed to the United States to send the Sixth Fleet to the Adriatic.

The bitterness between Croats and Serbs has reached the point where no reconciliation is possible any longer. As all-out war approaches, the hatred with which each side views the other has become entrenched, as have long-held stereotypes. Croats are Roman Catholic, their history dominated by the Habsburg empire, and perceive themselves to be a Western nation. They are looking to the West for support in their last-ditch stand against the Orthodox Serbs, whom they regard with contempt as both idle and warlike. "The basic motto of Serbia is 'we cannot work, but we know how to wage war'," Vlado Pandic, a member of President Tudjman's Croatian Democratic Union, said. He added that "bearded Serbian hordes" had already pillaged the neighbouring republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Serbia was for centuries under the Ottoman yoke. Under Slobodan Milosevic, its communist president, Serbia is seen by Croats as hungry for land, including their land. The Serbs, for their part, remember the wartime Nazi puppet Croatian state, under whose rule many pogroms were carried out between 1941 and 1945.

To the rest of Europe, Balkan differences appear petty and arcane. But local history is so stained with blood that it can make the difference between life and death as Serbs and Croats square up for a decisive encounter.

Zagreb attacked, page 1

There is no money for psychologists to treat traumatised children in this camp of 1,200. Hungary is caring for more than 35,000 refugees and its meagre resources are stretched. One hundred and twenty tons of food will arrive this week from the Dutch Red Cross but they will not last long with new refugees coming every day, says Tibor Munka, the camp's deputy director.

The worst problem, many refugees say, is not knowing what is happening at home. Croatian television programmes have gone off the air since the Zagreb transmission tower was destroyed.

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Face of fear: a boy injured by mortar shrapnel listening to air raid sirens in Zagreb from his bunk bed in the bomb shelter under the children's hospital in the Croatian capital city yesterday, the international day of the child

Oil embargo could worsen war

European Community efforts to halt the fighting in Croatia may have the opposite effect, Roger Boyes reports

A EUROPEAN Community-led oil blockade, or broader economic sanctions, against Yugoslavia would hurt Serbia and the federal army, but the war in Croatia would barely filter, and could spiral out of control. That was the judgment of Western economic analysts yesterday as the EC considered an embargo as a means of trying to stop, or at least curtail, the fighting.

The oil weapon has been a logical option for months. Since the Yugoslav army is using large quantities of petrol and diesel fuel, and since Serbia is entirely dependent on fuel imports, a useful point could be made by the West. The Germans, in particular, liked the idea since it seemed to punish Serbia more than Croatia — which has its own oil — and therefore implicitly identified Belgrade as the aggressor. Croatia closed the pipeline from the main oil terminal on the Adriatic coast last month.

Blocking oil supplies could prove dangerous. Although national fuel reserves are very low, the army is said to have about three months of its own oil reserve. The temptation therefore would be to step up the pace of the war to reach a speedy outcome. If there are to

be fuel shortages in a month, the army might deploy massive air power now rather than later. The targets would shift to the oilfields in eastern Croatia, to the main terminal, to the Croatian refineries and to the pipeline. And the generals would be likely to persist with a blockade of Adriatic ports to cripple the Croatian economy.

Politically, a European blockade would reinforce the xenophobia of the regime of Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, and might bring his government and the Serbian ultra-nationalist opposition closer. There are other risks too. If the Greeks are required by the EC to turn off the oil taps to Yugoslavia,

then Athens will be sucked into the conflict. The main problem, though, is that sanctions send confused signals. Although an oil embargo would seem to be directed against the Serb-controlled army, Yugoslavia's economy is still intertwined and other republics would suffer as well.

The war has severed most of the business links between Serbs and Croats. Thousands of Serbian companies have been taken over in Croatia and vice versa. Almost 200 Croatian-run petrol stations in Serbia have been seized. There are no air or rail links between Zagreb and Belgrade, the highway is dangerous and tele-

phone connections are haphazard. Spare parts are not arriving in Montenegrin factories, and Bosnian concerns are laying off workers by the thousand. If Serbian factories grind to a standstill because of a lack of oil then so will the economies of other republics.

Slovenia and Croatia, which yesterday resumed moves towards implementing independence — suspended for three months at EC behest — now have virtual war economies. Croatia has banned exports and commodity trade outside its territory and privatisations have been halted. The Belgrade treasury is no longer supplying the Yugoslav dinar to the breakaway republics and Slovenia is preparing to circulate its own banknotes. But an independent currency needs to be backed by a Western stabilisation fund — and an economic blockade would put an end to that.

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Tito's son fears for future of republic

From JOHN HOLLAND IN VIENNA

THE latest fighting in Croatia endangered the republic's existence, Aleksandar Broz, Marshal Tito's son, said yesterday, in a telephone interview from Zagreb. He said that if his father were alive, he would not have let the Yugoslav federal army get out of control.

"I'm sure that if my father was still around he would not have let this happen," said Mr Broz, an oil company executive with the Yugoslav firm INA. Mr Broz answered his secretary's telephone because an air raid alert had prevented her from making it to work. "I came in a little earlier than she did or I wouldn't be here either," he said. "I certainly don't like sitting in bomb shelters for two or three hours a day though, so I don't know how much longer I'll be coming in."

He said that much of the company had closed because of the fighting. The oilfields in east Slavonia, where some of the worst fighting is going on, are shut down and napalm has reportedly been dropped by the federal air force.

"We have one refinery open in Rijeka [on the Adriatic] where we are working on existing orders, even if there is a blockade. But in Sisak we have shut down the reactor for security reasons," he said.

Surely, he was asked, his father would be turning in his grave at the break-up of the country he held together and the piecemeal demolition of his Croatian homeland?

"In about ten or 15 years from now people here will begin to see the stupidity of breaking apart Yugoslavia. It is only a small piece of Europe and to break this small piece even further is not worth it. The individual republics will learn they cannot turn their backs on each other."

"My father would have dealt with this firmly, not let things get out of control, either with the Serbian faction or the army. And he would have dealt the same way with the Croatian nationalists."

Kurds kill captured Iraqis

From REUTERS IN SULAYMANIYAH

IRAQI Kurdish guerrillas shot dead at least 60 unarmed Iraqi soldiers who had surrendered during a battle here, witnesses said.

The soldiers were shot yesterday at close range, while kneeling, with their hands on their heads, the witnesses said. They appeared to have been captured after fighting on the outskirts of the city, which was coming under mortar fire and possibly shelling from Iraqi tanks on the outskirts.

Dozens of civilians in Sulaymaniyah were killed by shrapnel or bullets and at least 15 Kurdish guerrillas died in the fighting, the witnesses said. Sulaymaniyah hospital was treating dozens of casualties.

Fighting broke out between Kurdish rebels and Iraqi forces in the town of Kifri on Saturday and spread to the city of Arbat yesterday. Witnesses said the Iraqi attacks on Arbat and Sulaymaniyah seemed to be totally unprovoked. Sulaymaniyah was relatively calm despite fierce fighting on the outskirts but long queues were forming at petrol stations.

At least a dozen Iraqi soldiers, apart from those who were shot after surrendering, have been killed in the fighting in Sulaymaniyah. The Kurdish peshmarga guerrillas were apparently caught off guard when the attack started. The city's hospital was still crowded with casualties from the weekend fighting in Kifri.

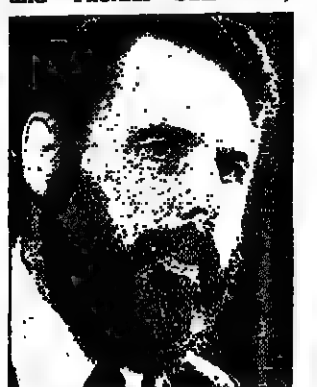
Traffic was jammed on the road from Sulaymaniyah to Sayed Sadiq refugee camp, about 30 miles to the east, the main route for relief supplies to hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees in Halabja, Sayed Sadiq and Penjwin.

Video tape raises hope for hostages

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

WITH tantalising hints that more Western hostages in Lebanon may soon be freed, their kidnappers have again renewed interest at a time when negotiations appeared to be close to deadlock. Since Jack Mann was freed two weeks ago, the various groups and governments have been bickering over who makes the next move.

The videotape released on Sunday of the American journalist Terry Anderson provided little new information about other hostages, other than of Terry Waite and Thomas Sutherland,



Waite: seen as a trump card by Islamic Jihad

with whom he is held, and carried no sign that their kidnappers, the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad, are willing to make concessions. While the group took the opportunity to publicise their main demand — freedom for Lebanese prisoners held by Israel — no mention was made of Israel's servicemen missing in Lebanon. As such, the tape is clearly a ploy to increase Western pressure on Israel.

The kidnappers were deeply cynical to use Mr Anderson, regarded as a "high-profile" hostage, to

convey their message when he could be the last Westerner to be freed as he is viewed, together with Terry Waite, as the Anglican church envoy, as their trump card.

Mr Anderson's healthy appearance and his tone made a dramatic change from the grim pictures that have been associated with his plight since March 1985. Friends said that while the interview was clearly vetted, the colloquial language was Mr Anderson's own and his smile was genuine. In earlier videotapes, Mr Anderson read from scripts prepared by his kidnappers, giving rhetorical denunciations of the United States and Israel. All this was absent from the tape released on Sunday.

The videotape served to contrast the conditions in which Mr Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of Associated Press, Mr Waite and Mr Sutherland, the Scottish-born American dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut, are held to those Mr Mann suffered. "We are treated with respect," Mr Anderson said.

Yesterday Mr Anderson was likely to have heard Solome, the six-year-old daughter he has never met, and her Lebanese-born mother, Madeleine Bassil, on the radio. "Terry, I'm amazed. You've given us great hope today about your health and the way you look and your expectations for the future," Ms Bassil said. "You've always been in our prayers and in our hearts... we're looking forward to picking up the future from where we left off." Mr Anderson was awaiting a divorce to marry Ms Bassil when he was kidnapped.

Shamir dampens peace hope

From RICHARD BESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, said yesterday that he was disappointed and pained by the present dispute with Washington over loan guarantees, but he still pledged that his government would attend the American-mediated peace talks.

Speaking at the opening of the Knesset's autumn session, Mr Shamir said Israel was entering a decisive period in its history, but he added that it would be a long and tortuous route to a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict. Israel would only proceed with great caution.

The speech, which traditionally sets out the government's policy for the parliamentary year, dealt first with the need to absorb the flood of Jewish immigrants by building new homes and providing more jobs. But Mr Shamir dwelt mainly on the prospects for the proposed regional conference where, for the first time, Israel, its Arab neighbours, and Palestinian representatives will meet to solve one of the world's longest and most intractable conflicts.

Typically, Mr Shamir displayed little emotion during the address and offered no new concessions, he chose instead to reiterate his right-wing government's tough negotiating position. He repeated that Israel would not attend the talks, scheduled for later this month, if the Palestine Liberation Organisation was represented, and he vowed that Arab territories occupied in 1967 by Israeli forces — the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and east Jerusalem — would never be relinquished in spite of worldwide calls that they be traded for peace with the Arab states.

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Hurd leads the way as Britain breaks out of EC isolation



Hurd: new strategy of seeking common ground

QUIETLY and almost unnoticed by the politicians and media, John Major and Douglas Hurd are ending Britain's embattled isolation in Europe.

In the confusion caused by the withdrawal of the Dutch draft of a political union treaty, Britain is forging a kaleidoscope of tactical alliances with its European Community partners to ensure that the two treaties will be signed in some form at Maastricht in December. But in the tough negotiations to come, the concessions for treaties on economic and political union will not all be from Britain.

So far, the most visible result has been the Anglo-Italian proposals for a common European defence policy, co-ordinating the views of two countries once at opposite ends of the spectrum. The draft, a clear attempt to set the agenda before the Maastricht summit, has caused pique in France and Germany, whose joint statements before each summit have usually set the terms

The government is forging tactical alliances with European partners and resolving areas of disagreement in the run-up to the crucial Maastricht summit, Michael Binyon writes

of the debate much to the annoyance of smaller EC members. France and Germany have requested a special summit to discuss the defence proposals, but have been rebuffed by the Dutch who, while not endorsing Britain's ideas, sees no reason to hand the initiative back to Paris and Bonn.

Mr Hurd's aim is formally tabling his ideas with Gianni De Michelis, the Italian foreign minister with whom he has struck up a warm relationship, is not to steal a leaf out of the federalists' book, or wrongfoot the French and the Germans. It is part of his strategy to seek common ground as and when possible. The British government is determined to sign a treaty in

December, believing delay will only make negotiations more difficult: the Portuguese, who take over the presidency in January, have little experience of, or stomach for, a prolonged wrangle, and Britain, which takes over after them, would be hard pressed to argue its own case while running the EC.

Britain, however, has to engage in more active diplomacy to get its views considered than its partners. This is partly because these views are still generally out of step with the other 11, especially on such questions as the extension of EC competence, increasing majority voting or giving more power to the European parliament. But also Margaret Thatcher's confronta-

tional style and reputation as a wrecker made almost any British views seem contaminated.

The search for tactical alliances only began to pay off when Mr Major signalled a change of tone towards Europe. This made relations, especially with Germany, easier. On economic and monetary union Britain now feels comfortable that it has broad support from Bonn for most of its positions — especially on the prerequisite of economic convergence.

Relations too have improved with France, and Britain has sought to exploit French insistence on keeping power in the hands of member governments, denying the commission extra powers and not boosting the Strasbourg parliament's powers. Precisely because these relations have improved, smaller countries too are more willing to take British reserves seriously. Britain shares with Ireland and Denmark reluctance to extend majority voting, with Den-

mark, Portugal, Ireland and Luxembourg a wish not to give Strasbourg a big say in EC government; with most of the northern countries an insistence that European defence must still be linked to Washington.

British officials admit that the next nine weeks will see extremely tough talks, and that Britain will often find herself alone or in a minority. They say the government knows it will have to make concessions, but with the inflamed political atmosphere in Westminster, especially over Europe, room for manoeuvre is limited. Mr Hurd has stepped up the pace of European contacts. He and junior Foreign Office ministers have travelled more in the past year to consult opposite numbers than at any time previously.

"Mr Hurd and Mr Major are committed to getting agreement at Maastricht," a Whitehall source said. "But it may be only agreement in principle."



De Michelis: a warm friendship with Hurd

Major seeks £4bn Soviet aid package

From George Brock in Luxembourg

THE G7 group of industrial countries yesterday started assembling the largest aid package ever offered to the Soviet Union when the European Community pledged \$2.4 billion (£1.4 billion) to help buy food and medicines.

Today John Major will ask President Bush and the Japanese and Canadian prime ministers to match the EC promise so that the G7 can offer Moscow a loan of \$7.2 billion if people starve in Soviet cities this winter.

The outline of the deal was worked out at Downing Street last week by Mr Major, the Dutch prime minister, Ruud Lubbers, and Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission. They agreed that the EC would start the ball rolling in the hope of pulling in equal sums from America and Japan. A high-level G7 delegation, which may be led by Mr Major, will visit the Soviet Union in the next few weeks to assess aid needs.

Unlike aid to Eastern Europe, which has come mainly from EC states, the G7 plan for the Soviet winter foresees roughly equal one-third shares between the EC, America and Japan with Canada. "We think that Japan and Canada as fully fledged members of the G7 should pay," Henning Christopherson, the co-ordination of structural funds commissioner, said.

The EC has already promised \$900 million of help to the Soviet Union ranging

from gifts of food and medicines to loans to buy food. Yesterday's decision by EC finance ministers to produce another \$1.5 billion depends on the aid decisions of the other G7 members and on the state of food supplies in the Soviet Union. But the conditions for the delivery of the loans were defined only vaguely yesterday.

In the past year, the EC has delivered 80,000 tonnes of food and medicine to the Soviet Union. M Delors said yesterday that this gave valuable experience to ensure that food reaches only people in need. Wim Kok, the Dutch finance minister who chaired yesterday's meeting, said no aid would be given unless hardship was evident. The EC's attempts to give food and loans to the Soviet Union have not gone well this year. Months of delay both in Brussels and Moscow held up food deliveries and a \$500 million loan has not been set up ten months after the funds were first released by EC governments.

EC officials visiting the Soviet Union could not discover who or what to give aid to. M Delors said yesterday that the community should aim to deal with the proposed central "interstate economic council" which — under a draft union treaty which the Soviet republics are discussing — would answer to the highest body, the state council. But neither of these bodies yet exists.

Economy geared to weapons

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ATTEMPTS by the Soviet Union to convert weapons factories into production lines for civilian goods appear doomed to failure. The authorities cannot face the social consequences of closing parts of the defence industry, Christopher Donnelly, Nato's principal Soviet expert, said yesterday.

Mr Donnelly, special adviser to Manfred Wörner, the Nato secretary-general, was told during a visit to the Soviet Union last week that factories would make obsolete T72 tanks for ten to 20 years, even if it meant driving them straight to the scrapyard. The inability to make significant changes in weapons production lines, a central part of the Soviet Union's command economy, would delay the switch to a market economy, Mr Donnelly said.

One defence factory proudly presented him with a new product, a well-designed penknife. "This was given me as an example of how they are converting their factories," he said at the centre for defence studies at King's College, London University. "It was made of titanium, used for Typhoon (ballistic missile submarine) hulls."

Mr Donnelly said a factory near Moscow was the size of Andover and 80,000 people depended on it. "How can they close it down and disperse the workforce? They produced a very effective war machine and now the Soviet general staff is worried that if they cut back, they will not be able to fight a war except by using nuclear weapons."



Remembrance day: Ukrainian Jews holding banners and flags during the last day of a week of memorial services at the Babi Yar monument near Kiev, where thousands of Jews were killed 50 years ago by the Germans

Portugal backs 'economic miracle'

From Martha de la Cal in Lisbon

ANIBAL Cavaco Silva, the Portuguese prime minister, won a resounding victory in Sunday's parliamentary elections. His Social Democratic party polled 50.4 per cent of the vote, giving it 130 seats in parliament and an absolute majority.

The Social Democrats won in every district in the country except Beja, a traditional communist stronghold in the southern Alentejo, where the Communists beat them by 1,000 votes. Senhor Cavaco Silva, whose campaign was based on his forceful personality and his claims that his government has brought in extensive foreign investment and wrought what might be called an economic miracle, said that Portugal has had freedom and democracy for some time but "the voters realised that the country also needs development". His majority assures him of four

more years to continue his privatisation programme and efforts to attract investment. The Portuguese Socialist Party won 29.2 per cent of the vote and 69 seats, compared with 22.8 per cent in the 1987 elections. Jorge Sampaio, the party's secretary-general, said he had expected more and was very disappointed. Senhor Sampaio, speaking on television, said he "was determined to continue the battle and be the voice of the opposition". The party's failure to obtain a greater percentage of the vote was attributed to a lacklustre, poorly organised campaign and no forceful alternative programme.

The biggest losers were the Communist party, the Christian Democrats and the Democratic Renewal party. The Communists won 8.8 per cent of the vote and 17 seats, compared with the results of 10 per cent to 12 per cent

which they achieved after the overthrow of the Salazar dictatorship in 1974. The most bitter aspect of their loss was their rejection by voters in the former agrarian reform lands in the Alentejo — a virtual fiefdom since the 1974 revolution — and in the industrial belt around Lisbon. In these areas, the Communist vote dropped between 20 per cent and 25 per cent.

A Communist party spokesman attributed the losses to changes in the density of population, type of population and absenteeism — which was 32 per cent, the highest ever. However, the hardline stance of Alvaro Cunhal, the ageing Communist party leader, in the face of perestroika and the break up of Eastern Europe drove many Communists into the socialist ranks.

The Christian Democrats received only 4.5 per cent of the vote and five seats in

parliament, prompting Dr Freitas do Amaral to resign as leader. The Democratic Renewal party received only 0.6 per cent of the vote and won no seat. The National Solidarity party, made up mostly of pensioners, polled 1.6 per cent and won a seat in parliament.

Cell work wins Nobel prize

TWO German physiologists, Erwin Neher and Bert Sakmann, were awarded the Nobel prize for medicine yesterday for proving that living cells are riddled with tiny channels that play a key role in the body's workings and in diseases including cystic fibrosis, diabetes, heart disease and anxiety attacks (Nick Nuttall writes).

The scientists, based at the Max-Planck institutes in Göttingen and Heidelberg, also showed how those tiny ion channels work and developed a technique that allows researchers to study their individual activity.

Their work, undertaken during the 1970s and 1980s, is paving the way for the development of designer drugs that will be able to tackle a wide range of diseases, said a spokesman for the Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute, in Stockholm, which awarded the six million kronor (£570,000) prize.

French warned

Paris — With racial intolerance manifesting on the rise in France, President Mitterrand has given another warning of the dangers of anti-Semitism for a nation whose history of treatment of its Jews is sombre. "This foul beast is still present, waiting in the shadows for the opportunity to emerge," he told a conference of French Jews.

Academy tour

Warsaw — The Princess Royal, on a visit to Poland, will inspect a police academy today that was once a training centre for communist secret agents. The princess's tour of Poland is part of the royal family's attempt to build bridges to Central Europe.

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Russia gets a taste of Scotland

From Charles Bremner in St Petersburg

NEWS that Scottish bakers had opened a shop in St Petersburg caused raised eyebrows and long queues a few weeks ago. I joined the line of shoppers outside Tom Ford's premises by the old Tauride palace. They were queuing for scones, baps and other Scottish fare not usually found east of Aberdeen.

"Scottish-style bakery", says the sign over the shop. Mr Ford, a baker from Prestonpans, came to Leningrad, as it was then, in 1990 and saw scope for a branch there. His bakery, which opened in mid-September, is the first British shop in Russia since the communists threw out foreign merchants.

It is not generally known among sassenachs, but Russia has long had a soft spot for things Scottish, notably whisky and Robert Burns. "The Russian people have money in their pockets and nothing to spend it on... People are prepared to travel great distances to us," says Mr Ford, sitting in his little office with Jeffrey Kinton, his bakery consultant, as their 24 Russian workers run the ovens that will supply the

afternoon crowd standing patiently in the autumn drizzle. It is not hunger that is pulling in customers, as some British reports have suggested, but a taste for the bread and the exotic *scones* and *shotlandskiy bulochki* (Scottish rolls) on sale. The shop is called Karavai, a word that refers to the ceremonial loaf of Russian folk tradition. Hun

the red tape that has wrung tears from many a multinational executive. Mr Ford is taking a gamble because he cannot repatriate his profits, which he shares with the state bakery that is his partner. He is putting the money, now inflating at 5 per cent a month, into property in St Petersburg which he hopes will gain in value as the Russian economy reforms.

Like most foreigners trying to operate in Russia, Mr Ford is outraged by the high hard currency prices charged by state authorities for basic services. But he also has little patience for the failure of British businessmen to take the plunge in Russia while other Europeans and Americans are setting up joint ventures.

Littlewoods becomes the first big British company to open a Russian store when it inaugurates a rouble and hard currency joint venture on the Nevsky Prospekt, St Petersburg's main thoroughfare, this week. This follows the establishment in recent years of Russian shops by French, Swiss, German, Austrian, Irish and other firms.

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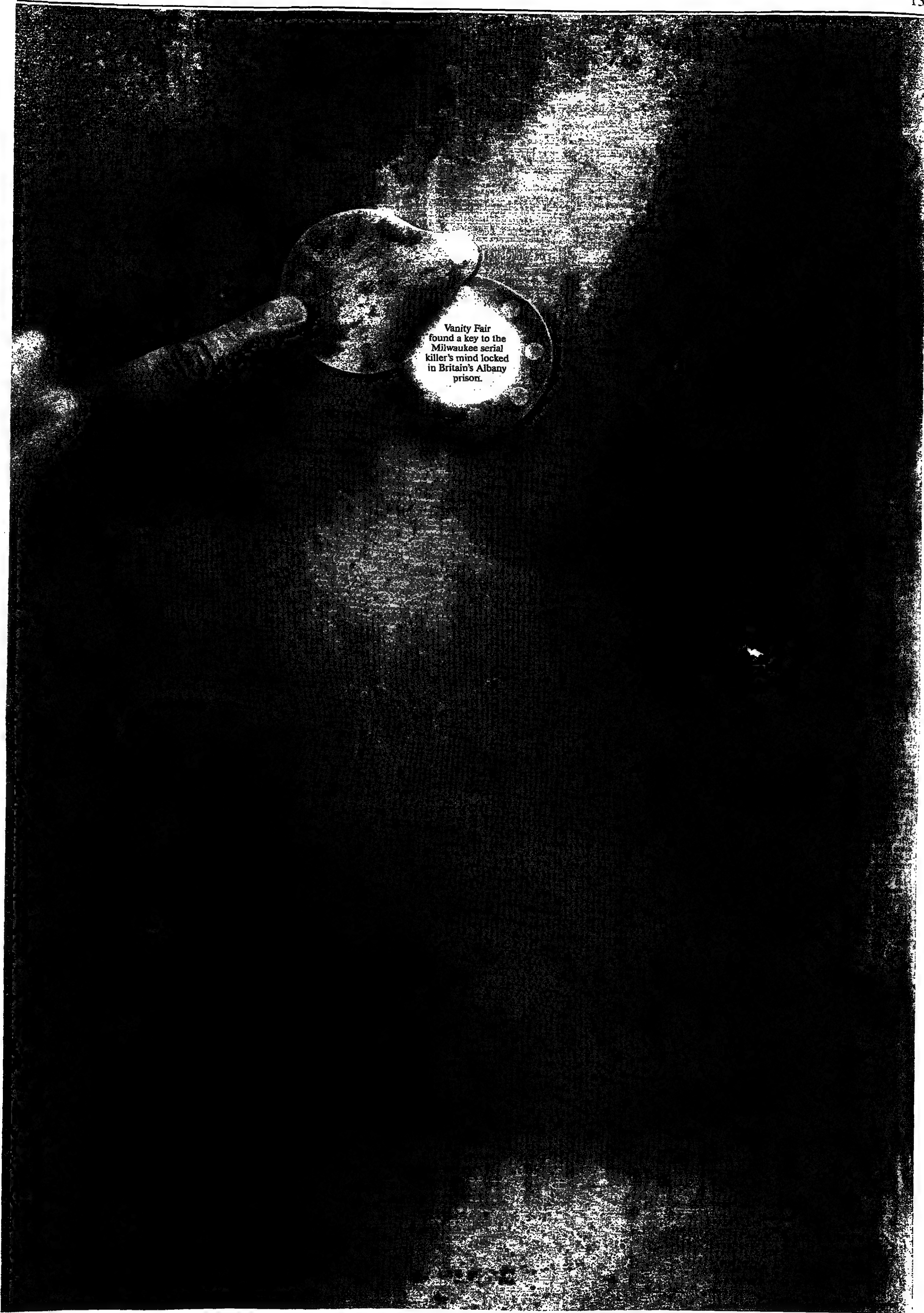
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Vanity Fair
found a key to the
Milwaukee serial
killer's mind locked
in Britain's Albany
prison.

Albany prison on the Isle of Wight might seem an unlikely place to find clues to what happened in an apartment in Milwaukee. Not so for Brian Masters, author of 'Killing for Company'. Masters went to visit convicted

serial killer Dennis Nilsen and asked him to shed light on the dark world of Milwaukee serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer, now facing charges for murders of chilling similarity to those for which Nilsen is serving a life sentence.

Nilsen was reluctant at first to re-immense himself in his own nightmares, but he eventually opened up to Masters and then followed

their long conversation with an extraordinary letter analysing Jeffrey Dahmer's macabre life and some of the reasons for its twisted path.

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Demand for the simply obvious

Gioorgio Armani, the man who restructured the idea of extravagantly priced designer clothes in the 1970s, by inventing the understated £1,000 power suit, has done it again. As the designer market shrinks and the cost of high style rises, he is leading the way through the recession with a collection of fashion staples for the 1990s — basic jeans and T-shirts, blazers and silk tops — most of which will be priced under £100.

This week, as Signor Armani and other top fashion names in Milan kick off the month-long schedule of designer shows, the focus is on the designers' lower-priced spin-off lines. Valentino, Gianni Versace, Krizia, as well as Signor Armani, are dedicating the opening days of the Milan shows to the commercial muscle of their profitable secondary collections — Oliver, Versus, Poi and Emporio respectively. Their top-priced collections are being staged as Thursday's finale to the shows.

However, only Signor Armani has dropped his prices dramatically below even those second-tier collections with the launch next month, initially in America, of A/X: Armani Exchange, inspired by the army PX store, which will bring designer quality, colour and style to fashion basics.

"You should be able to shop for clothes like buying apples," he says. Looking tanned and slimmer after his summer holiday at his house on Pantelleria, an island off Sicily, he is dressed in blue jeans with a navy T-shirt, a navy sweater tied around his shoulders and brown loafers, all Armani, of course. The A/X line is based on his own casual wardrobe.

Back to basics: rust and beige striped fine wool shorts with long jacket, Emporio Armani, spring/summer collection 1992



Liz Smith meets Giorgio Armani, whose new label reflects his belief in the fashion basics

The price of an Armani T-shirt may not be "two-a-penny", like apples, but he believes the garment will be bought in multiples, three T-shirts to a pack, stone-washed colours as well as white, two pairs of trousers, a jacket to go over the lot.

"Women are saying 'no' to the grotesque, elaborate styles they see in fashion magazines. I never see those clothes being worn. I can see what they want to wear. It is a pair of jeans and a good jacket. A/X is a line *sensu problema*," he says, with that Latin shrug that indicates a statement of the obvious.

A Manhattan flagship Armani A/X store opens in downtown SoHo next month; London must wait until later next year.

Signor Armani's minimalist design ethos could not be more different from Gianni Versace's

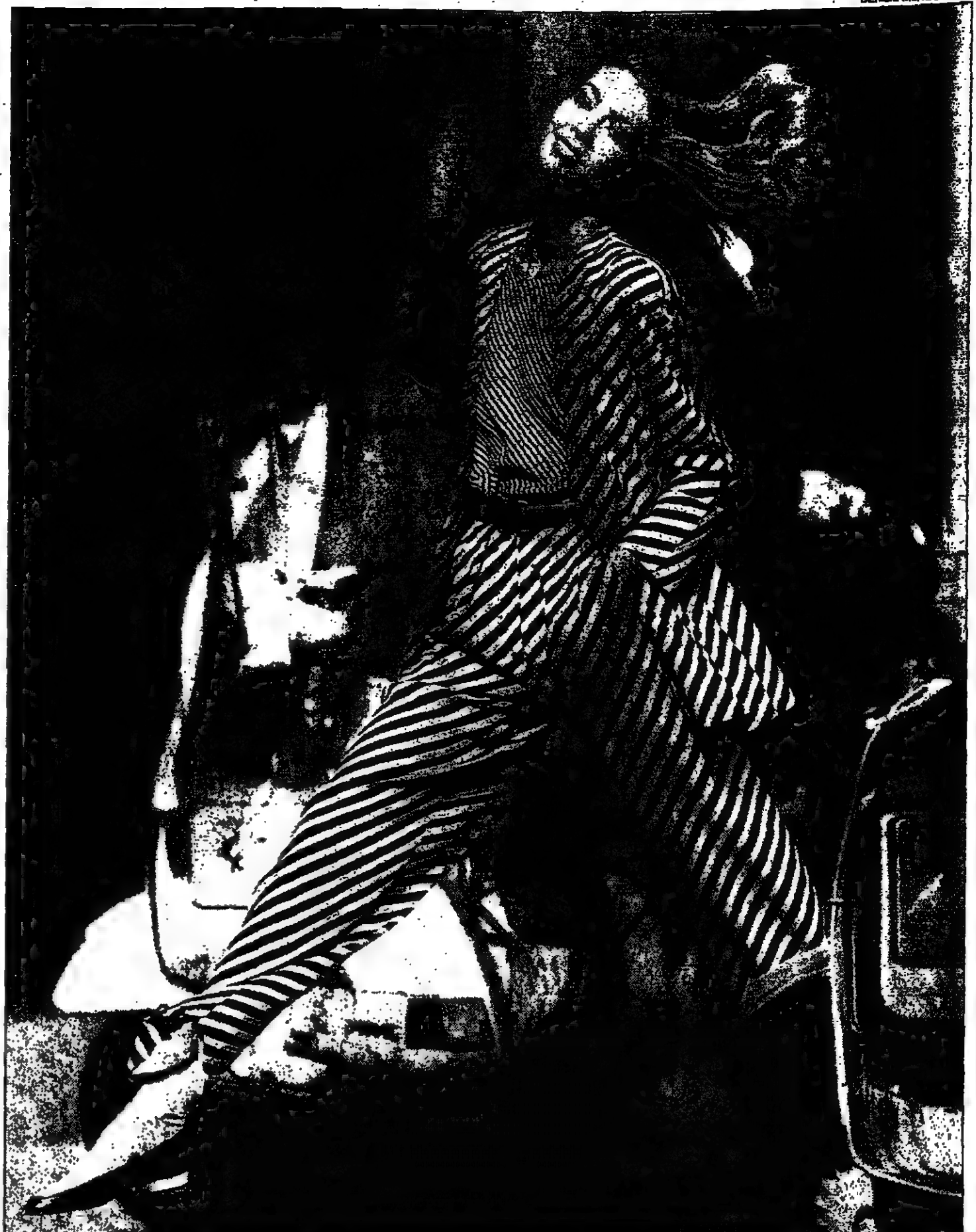
glamorous new line of basics, launched in Milan this week. Versace classics, in his new Signature collection, are the printed silk shirts, skin-tight jeans and blouson jackets that have become collectors' items. Lavishly printed with his favourite baroque designs, they are certainly not low-priced.

The contrastingly simple strategies espoused by Signor Armani extend to his new Emporio line shown on Sunday and his more sophisticated main Giorgio Armani collection, to be shown on Thursday (previews, with Emporio, in our pictures). There are more trousers than before. Skirts, when short, are barely visible under easy-fitting long jackets. The subtle colours of his palette, particularly the pale duck-egg blue and the grey which even he has difficulty in describing, settling for "a bluey-green grey", are carried through all he designs.

Signor Armani today is sole owner of a fashion empire with an annual turnover of \$654 million (about £300 million). The trade sees his launch of A/X as a way of breaking into a new, free-spending market. With his luxurious minimalist apartment above his frescoed Milanese palazzo, he is convincing when he says he believes in the honesty of simple things. "Consumerism has gone too far," he says.

He is enthusiastic about his next project, a home furnishings line. Sitting in a Corbusier chair in his office, he says that, as with A/X, Armani furnishings will be based on his needs. "For example, I want a sofa that is neither too upright nor too squashy. It will be sophisticated, simple and comfortable. I will design it."

Design strategy: navy and beige striped silk suit, with fine contrasting vest, Giorgio Armani



A flair for fashion failure

Was the collapse of Lindka Cierach's business a case of the British disease?

The day of Friday July 23 1986 turned Lindka Cierach from an unknown dressmaker working in the front room of her Fulham home into an international couturier. An estimated 500 million viewers watched Sarah Ferguson become the Duchess of York dressed in a wedding dress reputed to have cost £30,000 and created by Miss Cierach.

Yesterday Miss Cierach's former employee, Suzannah Jackson, was found guilty of defrauding her company of money and clothing worth £25,000. During the court hearing we heard how, beset by debt and mismanagement, Miss Cierach's ready-to-wear company went into liquidation. It is a sad but familiar tale of how management, finance and entrepreneurial skills failed to capitalise on talent. An understanding of

fashion at management level is almost unknown in Britain. Fashion design remains a foreign language and the talented fashion graduate of the Royal College of Art usually heads for Paris and Milan and is snapped up.

Miss Cierach, who trained at the London College of Fashion, served her apprenticeship with the famous Roman couturier, Valentino. After the success of the royal wedding dress, Miss Cierach set up her own wholesale company to mass produce, albeit in small quantities, her clothes for the top stores in Britain and abroad. To develop this company needed skilled management,

Without the high-technology factories at the disposal of Italian designers, the clothes had to be made in small workrooms where the costs, coupled with the 100 per cent retail mark-up, pushed the prices uncomfortably close to those of the made-to-measure garments. To help her to run this company Miss Cierach employed Ms Jackson, who initially joined the staff as a secretary and later became the titular managing director. There was no budget from promotion or advertising, no

one to strike the valuable licensing deals for tights, perfume and hats, and more important, no proper financial control or planning. I remember dashing across Florence in 1975 to see the collection of a talented newcomer. Gianni Versace had left his mother's dressmaking business in Reggio Calabria in 1972 and by 1976 he had set up his own company with backing from the Milanese financiers who own the factories which make the clothes. Like Gianfranco Ferré he

began with a ready-to-wear collection and progressed to made-to-measure couture. Signor Versace, who is showing his latest line in Milan this week, was never expected to run the company, balance the books, sell the collection and negotiate production contracts — all of which Miss Cierach (or later, Ms Jackson) would have attempted almost single handed.

The British designers who

run the company, balance the books, sell the collection and negotiate production contracts — all of which Miss Cierach (or later, Ms Jackson) would have attempted almost single handed. The failure of her company is a personal disaster but one that could have surely been predicted. Had her Polish father elected to send his daughters to be educated in Italy or France instead of Britain, perhaps the events of the last week would not have taken place.

GERALDINE RANSON

Only the best from the corner shop

Another Conran is aiming to bring the world of design to Britain, wholesale

What is it about the Conrans that makes their name synonymous with design? Sophie Conran, the only daughter of Sir Terence, thinks it is in the blood and has launched an innovative product-sorting and marketing company with Paul Spencer, an artist.

The company, Wong Singh Jones Ltd, will find design classics from corner shops around the world and market them to retailers in Britain, and eventually all of Europe.

The merchandise will be practical and good value and help to define the indigenous culture of its country. "Whenever anyone travels they always find something wonderful they can't buy at home," Mr Spencer says. "We want to make such things available here. We're only looking for designs that have proved themselves through continuous use by local people. Specific cultural icons, if you like."

The partners met in New York, so the first batch of products originates from north and south America. But eventually they will be looking further afield. "Our aim is to go to unusual places like Iceland, Poland or New Zealand, rather than follow the ethnic trail through Africa and India. Eastern Europe has great potential," Mr Spencer says.

Importing straight from the corner shop is a concept reflected in the name of the company, a melting pot of common surnames in China, India and Europe.

The initial products come from companies too small to export. Demand for New York-style loft lamps, for example, has grown in Britain, and the partners have commissioned a fitting that meets British regulations. The al-

luminium adjustable clamp lamps cost from £15 and are on sale in the Conran Shop and Liberty in London.

Classic North American linesmen's bags, made from leather and canvas, have similarly functional good looks. The three sizes cost between £40 and £50 and are stocked at Graham & Green in west London. From

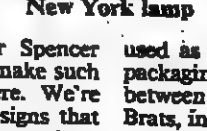
South America comes a series of prayer lights that can burn for seven days. Decorated with quasi-religious symbols, the candles come in tall glasses and cost about £4 at Tom's in Westbourne Grove, west London.

Waxed cardboard food pails, associated with San Francisco's Chinatown, can be used as storage boxes or gift packaging. The boxes cost between 25p and 40p each at Brax, in southwest London.

"Originally, we were going to open a shop," Ms Conran says, "but my father suggested reducing overheads by supplying wholesale to retailers."

NICOLE SWENGLEY
Wong Singh Jones Ltd, PO Box 2723, London W2 6DW (071-262 4328)

Loft style: the New York lamp



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Unaccustomed as we are to anything more daring than pinstripes and brogues, Lloyds Bank is nevertheless one of the country's biggest sponsors of fashion.

And this year, for the first time, in association with the British Fashion Council, there's the Lloyds Bank British Fashion Awards.

The Awards are the climax of the London Fashion Week as well as being one of the highlights of the British fashion year.

The winners will be stepping up to the podium at the Awards Ceremony on October 14th at the Duke of York's Headquarters, situated appropriately enough in the King's Road, Chelsea.

And the following evening the highlights are scheduled to be shown on BBC-1 at 8.00pm.

We'd like to congratulate them all in advance. Call us old-fashioned, but it's no more than they deserve.



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EXHIBITION

The turn of this century

The British Museum's new show, *Collecting the 20th Century*, is likely to startle visitors, and is probably meant to — especially those who think of the BM as a more or less static repository of Egyptian mummies and other relics of antiquity. But here is a show that exposes the wealth of this century's art and artefacts tucked quietly away inside the august Bloomsbury institution.

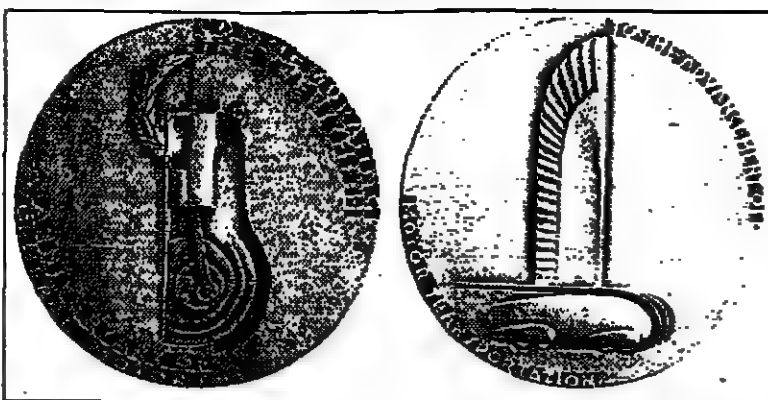
In the public imagination, perhaps only the BM's Department of Prints and Drawings is associated with the modern world: that department is comparatively well known as the national collection of graphic art and works on paper, moderns included. Prints and drawings do indeed figure large in this show, but not at all in *Decorative Arts 1850-1950*, the hefty catalogue that has been published simultaneously with the show, and available for an equally hefty £95.

What is not clear — and the subject never seems to be directly addressed — is where the dividing line comes between the BM's responsibilities and those of the Victoria and Albert Museum, which has many comparable objects in its own 20th century collection. But at least the spotlight is now focused on a formerly obscure aspect of the BM's activities.

On the whole, the results are illuminating. There is little doubting the quality of the works of decorative art on show here, although inevitably the question constantly recurs: if this, why not that? Since comprehensive was obviously out of the question, however, it seems enough that the samples, arbitrarily chosen though they be, are all good of their kind.

There can certainly be no complaint

John Russell Taylor is intrigued by the British Museum's attempt to throw off its ancient image in favour of displaying the signs of our times



Assembly line: General Motors medal, by Norman Bel Geddes (1933)

about the Lalique jewellery, the Deco medallions, the American art pottery, the Russian Revolutionary ceramics, the Josef Hoffmann tableware and so on. But what of the paraphernalia of more recent decades, such as the hippie badges and Mickey Mouse watches? They may well be significant, in the sense that they evoke the tone of the times. But they also provoke the thought that it is difficult to isolate the essence of modern life while living it.

Elsewhere in the museum there is a room (number 48) temporarily occupied with the 19th century decorative arts which are included in the catalogue but not in the main show. Splendid, the knowledgeable visitor thinks: the roots of the modern movement are thus illuminated by the

poets and metalwork of Christopher Dresser. But these were mostly acquired in the 1880s; the 1880s view would have been very different, and probably much less helpful.

The rest of the show consists of 20th century acquisitions in prints and drawings, and items connected with the museum's ethnographic collections. At present these are hived off in the Museum of Mankind, but destined soon to return to Bloomsbury. Modern tribal art that draws upon ancient traditions is frequently just as impressive as its forebears, especially if the culture from which it comes has been relatively untouched by the modern world. Where this is not the case, the impact is lessened. For example, the visitor's respect for the

ingenuity with which some Chinese craftsman has cobbled together a motor bike out of paper is likely to be tempered by the slightly patronising attitude accorded to kitsch.

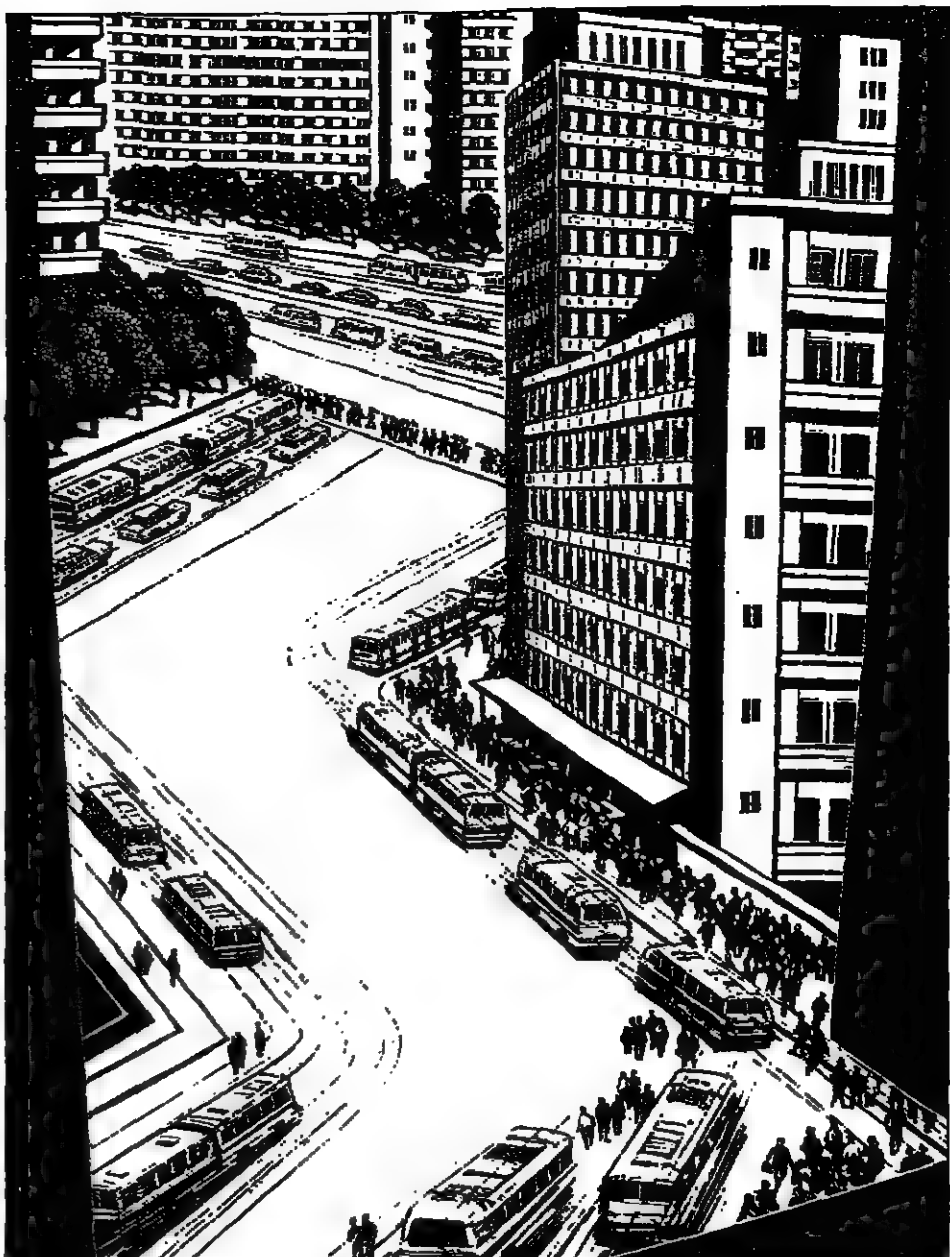
With the prints and drawings, happily, no such reservations are required. Here, at least, is a coherent and comprehensive collection. There is nothing arbitrary about the choice, and the breadth is stunning.

Even in the United States there is unlikely to be a richer or more discriminating collection of rare American prints of the 1930s and 1940s, and there are few finer representations anywhere of German Expressionist graphics or central European etchings and woodcuts.

The graphic elements in the oriental and Japanese collections are equally wide-ranging and eclectic. Chinese socialist-realist woodcuts rub shoulders with Japanese modernists such as Munakata, and Sekia Kamizaka's breath-taking woodblock series *Momoyogusa* (*Grasses of Myriad Worlds*) is placed within hailing distance of the Algerian Rachid Koraichi's calligraphic *Poèmes sur un amour ancien*, which actually invents a Japanese character to symbolically embody their message.

Arguments about the BM's duties to the 20th century are bound to persist into the 21st. The best answer, as usual, is empirical: if the unseen parts of the collection are as good as those on view, who can doubt that the nation should have them?

● Collecting the 20th Century is at the British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-636 1555) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-6pm, until February 16.



Chinese social realism: Wang Qi's woodcut, *The Rhythm of the Streets I* (1985)

THEATRE

Amateur hour of glory

Jeremy Kingston on how and why more than 40 companies will stage the new John Godber play at the same time

Amateur theatre endures a generally poor press outside reviews in its house magazines, where every player has to be mentioned and "Maureen from Accounts did sterling work as the maid". To be an amateur actor is to be deemed second-rate, a distinction rarely imposed in other fields where people are assumed to be doing a thing without payment because they love it. Love is at the heart of the business, as the word makes clear, and amateurs are criticised for only acting in their spare time could resort that this is where love belongs.

Semantics aside, amateur theatre takes a giant step into the limelight from next weekend when 49 members of the Little Theatre Guild (LTG), who must actually own their theatre to qualify, launch simultaneous productions of the same new play up and down the land, from Dumfries, South Shields and Sunderland at one end of the country to Brighton, Romsey and the Isle of Wight at the other. British Telecom has funded what it intends to be a biennial thespian outburst and commissioned the first play from John Godber, artistic



At work (from left) BT's Roger Broad, prompt Irene Wimbourne and Neil Lewis, the lead in the South London Theatre Company's production of John Godber's *Happy Families*

director of the Hull Truck Theatre Company and author of *Bouncers*, *Up 'n' Under* and half a dozen other popular successes. In Britain he is the fourth most performed playwright, only Shakespeare, Arthur Miller and Alan Ayckbourn are ahead of him in the batting averages.

Some of the theatres have had to fix their opening night a day or two later than the rest, but the majority of first nights will take place this Saturday, making it unquestionably the largest premiere in 25 centuries of drama.

The LTG wanted to increase the renown of amateur theatre, and under its then chairman, Marjorie Havard, a co-founder of the LTG back in the Forties, various ideas were tossed around and a sponsor sought. BT had already funded theatres, but wanted to

do rather more than post off a cheque. The idea of a monster premiere took shape, and last December representatives of the member theatres set off to meet BT.

Back then, all that was known about the play was the identity of the author, its title, *Happy Families*, and the number and composition of the cast (3m, 7w). In the spring the first drafts of Act I were sent out to the companies, and in the summer BT invited all the directors and two players from each cast for a weekend at the company's training college at Stone, in Staffordshire, to meet the author.

In normal circumstances amateur companies never meet authors. The Questors, of Ealing, west London, is an exception because of its record

of producing new work: a Lithuanian student company from Vilnius university performed a new play there this July, after the Questors had taken three plays of their own to Lithuania. The Tower Theatre at Canonbury, in London, also has a tradition of staging untried work. But for most LTG members the staple fare is drama that has already proved its worth.

But at Stone the directors met a man who had only just finished writing their play. Godber brought along some of his actors from Hull to give a reading, and then offered a few suggestions. Since the work is a memory play, the set did not have to be naturalistic. Two of the female roles could be doubled. Technical advice was given, but little in the way of interpretation. That would be up to the individual actors. Rehearsals began last month.

The South London Theatre Company, in West Norwood, performs in what was built as a fire station 100 years ago. Its four floors now contain two auditoriums, a rehearsal room, store rooms and bar. The larger Bell Theatre, named in honour of the fire engines of yore, seats 95 in seven rows comfortably upholstered in cherry plush that would shame a few West End theatres. Neil Lewis, who by day works in publishing, is playing John, the character whose misadventures Godber admits are based upon his own as an 11-plus failure.

Rodger Broad, the sponsoring manager for BT, watches from an aisle. Having dropped in on the evening rehearsals of several companies, he would like to do the humanly impossible and see the performances of all 49. "A community with a theatre is more stable," he says.

That may not always be true — but who can foresee the long-term consequence of exposure to live theatre? I might not be writing these words if my parents had not taken me, at the age of six, to the Barn Theatre in Welwyn Garden City to see *Toad of Toad Hall*. The astonishing moment when what I had assumed to be a tussock of grass jumped up and became a rabbit has never faded. As a belated thank you I shall be making a return visit on the big night to see 3m and 7w play their parts in the largest ever theatrical first night.

Triumph of diplomacy

THE National Art Collections Fund, which gives about £2 million a year to buy works of art for public collections, is looking for a new director. Among names being mentioned is that of David Barrie, the youthful administrator of the Japan Festival currently gripping large parts of Britain. He would have to resign from the diplomatic service if he were to take the job: he is on secondment from the Foreign Office. But he would be following a distinguished diplomat, Sir Peter Wakefield, our former ambassador in Lebanon and Belgium, who retires from the NACF in May after ten

BRIEFING

years in which he has trebled membership of the charity, to more than 30,000 people.

Sound stage

ED MIRVISH, the Canadian theatrical entrepreneur who revitalised the Old Vic, is building a new theatre in Toronto, especially to house the Canadian premiere of *Miss Saigon*. The 2,000-seat theatre will be entirely financed by "Honest Ed" and his son David, and is scheduled to open in May 1993.

Baton charge

THE ever-burgeoning conducting career of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies takes

another step next July, when the composer begins a three-year appointment with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. Sir Peter, at present



Maxwell Davies: new job

working on the composition of both his Fifth and Sixth Symphonies, will have the

title conductor/composer — a position similar to the one he has held with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra for several years. The job takes him back to Manchester, where he was born and educated.

Last chance...

CARL Sternheim wrote *Die Hase* on the eve of the first world war, and the success of Phil Young's production at the Lyric, Hammersmith — where the title has been translated as *The Knickers* — shows that you can't keep a good satire down. The tangles are briskly funny, the performances splendidly bold. The run ends on Saturday (081-741 2311).

ARTS REVIEWS
Theatre, dance,
jazz and radio
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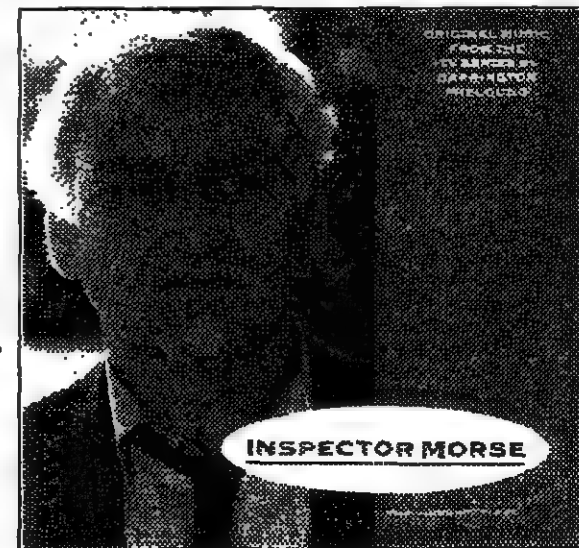
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Woodrow Wyatt

The Tories must look distinctive, successful and still innovative

For the moment, Labour has the advantage. Mr. Kinnock has skillfully narrowed Labour's credibility gap. The wild men (and women) have become impotent: they no longer look capable of a post-election coup to shift a Labour government into the extreme left. Last week CND and its union allies passed a motion at Brighton demanding the wrecking of our nuclear and other defences. Mr. Kinnock was able to brush it aside as casually as post-war Labour prime ministers treated similar conference inanities. It is now hard to argue that Mr. Kinnock's defence policy would differ much from Mr. Major's.

Though the figures don't add up, Mr. Kinnock has succeeded in fostering the impression that Labour would spend more on the health service, social security and welfare, without causing an economic crisis like that which forced the last Labour government to raise the largest ever loan from the IMF. Mr. Kinnock has extinguished the passion for nationalising: he wears the clothes of private enterprise to persuade business and industry that he prefers Adam Smith to Karl Marx or Keir Hardie.

The message is that the innovations of the Thatcher years have been broadly accepted, and that Labour would be much the same as the Tories in office. If Mr. Kinnock can make that stick, he can tap the powerful British sporting instinct that the other side should have a bat. Labour may get in unless the Tories persuade the electorate, which is prompted more by mood and feelings than by analysis, that they have not run out of steam and that there are reasons of consequence for not switching to Labour.

Labour says the higher personal taxes it must raise to implement its spending plans would bear most heavily on the under-earning rich and would barely affect more modest earners. Not only should the Tories vigorously demonstrate that this is untrue, they should proclaim themselves the party of lower personal taxes for those paying, or near, the present top rate band, and should outline the speed and manner in which this would be achieved. They should prove that it is the socialists who cannot be trusted with the health service, because they would let it slide unchanged into greater inefficiency and waste, and that the NHS is strengthened, not debilitated, by greater choice for patients through hospital trusts and by giving doctors more power to select the best treatment.

The Citizen's Charter, better called the consumer's charter, is excellent. But there should be simpler explanations about how consumers can compel faceless organisations to deliver. The new education plans have not yet been perceived as the invigorating advance they are in terms of parental choice and better teaching — which is why they are so fiercely resisted by those in the education establishment. Mr. Lamont's triumph in slashing inflation must be hammered home with a convincing promise that the Tories will never let it get out of hand again.

Mr. Major was Mrs. Thatcher's chosen heir. He believes in her revolution, though it is not in his nature to sound so revolutionary. The Thatcherist made the Tories a galvanising, adventurous party of the future, and left Labour looking like a purveyor of recycled policies that never worked. By emphasising lower taxation, privatisation of rail, coal and the Post Office, Mr. Major must show that the Thatcherist is still strong. Otherwise, Mr. Kinnock will gain credence for the seductive propaganda that voting Labour would mean the mildest of changes plus the entertaining novelty of watching a new team.

Janet Daley says Britain's social snobbery results from failure to copy France and abolish the aristocracy

The lady's not a Lady

England's tragedy is that it killed its king a century too early. If we had had an 18th-century revolution like the French, we could have rid ourselves of the royals and their aristocratic flunkies for the right reasons. Instead, what was offered to the English was a puritanism so ugly and intolerant that it made decadence seem congenial and the restoration of Charles II actually popular. Now, far from being irrelevant, hereditary titles are still a matter of five political debates (viz Margaret Thatcher's letter opposite), and our risible snobberies make us the laughing stock of the democratic world.

Not only can we find elegant excuses for persevering with the indefensible (a hereditary upper house with political power and limitless social clout), but we can actually go backwards, by reintroducing hereditary peerages, without provoking riots in the streets. But in the end, it will not do. The trouble with the Lords is not that it is unelected. An upper house of appointed aldermen who are there to give reasoned

debate and sage advice is not an insupportable thing. What is corrupting is that that house remains the rock on which aristocratic legitimacy is founded. Thus, when we elevate people to it, we are offering them membership of a club whose existence perverts relations all the way down the social ladder.

In saying this, of course, I am breaking one of the most important rules of polite discourse: I am taking it all far too seriously. Not taking oneself (or anything else) seriously is part of the great cause of unwritten social law that the inheriting classes perpetuate because it is in their interests to do so. What is less understandable is that the rest of us are prepared to join in. The invidiousness of maintaining the aristocracy and its hangars on, of constantly resuscitating it with fresh blood, has repercussions for us all.

What appals newcomers to Britain is not the tawdry soap opera of royalty, nor the trappings of ermine-clad dukes. All of that can be taken as an entertaining sideshow to real life. What is deeply shocking (to a North American or an Antipodean, at least) is the corruption and nepotism, the protectionism and the dismissive complacency of professional life. It takes a while to sink in, but eventually the conclusion cannot be avoided: there is a direct connection between this pernicious code and the preservation of a "trivial" upper class.

The aristocratic model of behaviour permeates the British outlook in ways that are almost invisible to those who have lived here all their lives. They do not realise how many of their attitudes have been bequeathed to them by their landed betters.



Charles II: decadence deserving revolution

Doing something well, for instance, scarcely counts on the scale of job satisfaction.

As well as not taking themselves or their work too seriously, the right sort of people know how to assume the necessary patina of relaxed amateurishness. Banning together with their peers, they see to it that gamekeepers outsiders with

in Britain are fatally subverted by the sycophancy of aristocratic tradition. Industrial relations are condemned to endless recrimination by the belief that it is more important to suck up to the people above than to communicate with those below.

Work is still seen as an extension of social life, and the virtue of conformist affability is prized more than professional competence. Jobs are filled by networking, on the assumption that people one knows (or who know people one knows) are likely to be "all right", that they will "fit in" and be clubbable in the expected ways.

As well as not taking themselves or their work too seriously, the right sort of people know how to assume the necessary patina of relaxed amateurishness. Banning together with their peers, they see to it that gamekeepers outsiders with

their embarrassingly earnest ideas about hard work, seriousness of purpose and open access are permanent losers.

Not that all those born beyond upper classes have survived largely because of their readiness to accept initiatives, who are admitted just so long as they are prepared to play the game (the most important rule of which involves not rocking the boat).

For a time it looked as though we were leaving behind that worthy divided into self-preserving clubs with their privileges passed on through well-mapped channels.

I supported Margaret Thatcher because I saw her as the enemy of this kind of Britain. She may have given hereditary peerages herself, but they were to men who had no sons, so it seemed a harmless gesture. If her renunciation of such a title is as categorical as it sounds, it will prove that some people at least can hold out against the seductions of the old club.

Yugoslavs who hoped for peace are now resigned to further death and destruction, says Anne McElvoy

The lady at the deserted Yugoslav airline counter in the dingy row of offices at East Berlin airport smiled a tired welcome and started to print the ticket before I had even reached the counter. "Back again? Every time the fighting gets worse. Only journalists have any reason to go to my country now. Maybe we will become like Lebanon: a country with no visitors, only journalists."

Around her, the Czech, Bulgarian and Romanian counters were doing brisk business in cheap flights for curious student tourists and portly East German businessmen, off to do free-market deals based on old party connections. Time was, she said, when she had felt a certain superiority about coming from Belgrade. East Germans, forbidden to go to Yugoslavia because it allowed travel to the West, would ask her enviously about her country. "For them, we were half Western. Now we are the backwater of the Balkans."

Despite summoning the politeness for a disclaimer, I could dredge up no comforting words to cheer her. As the plane climbed and the stewardess in her worn uniform dispensed indigestible sandwiches and tepid orange squash fit to deepen the gloomiest mood, I thought that her colleagues on the ground had summarised Yugoslavia's despair in two strokes: the conflict is getting worse, the country is being left behind.

The flood of refugees over the Hungarian border grows by the week. The rich have already left the country to join relatives in the West, the poor now join convoys of motorcycles, tractors and pedestrians, deserting villages with only a handful of possessions. The very old and the sick are left behind to an uncertain fate. Few of those leaving have any hope that they will return to their homes — the irreversible movement of peoples, fearful of war and without

the will to stay and fight is under way and growing.

The three-month moratorium on the independence declarations of Slovenia and Croatia ran out yesterday. It was proposed by the European Community as a "cooling-off period", a grim misnomer if ever there was one. It has been a heating-up period, punctuated by ceasefires worth rather less than the paper they were written on, and initiatives which looked sensible from The Hague but have proved irrelevant to the afflicted civilians, Serbs and Croats alike, as they flee their burning homes, wait for word from missing relatives and count the dead and anticipate the casualties to come. For them, Europe has never seemed so far away.

When I arrived in Yugoslavia at the end of June, Europe was the solution on everyone's lips. The Slovenians and Croats believed that it would welcome them as lost brothers into the Western community post haste: the Serbs were equally sure that it would not leave in the lurch a former ally against Nazi Germany. Europe was a cipher for hope. Western journalists were still treated with embarrassing deference.

"You will save us because you bring our suffering to the attention of the world," said one young Croatian acquaintance. This time he was distinctly cooler when I telephoned. Was it something I had written? "Nothing personal," he said, "it is just that I have come to realise that whatever stories you write, whatever pictures you show of the horror here, it makes no difference at all."

Nowadays, the EC's efforts are barely heeded by the populations of Yugoslavia. Even Slovenia, the mouse which roared and got away with it, knows that its independence can be realised not because of support from the West but because after the humiliation of the early skirmishes, the Serbian generals in charge of the federal army decided that they were not



A child's despair: Yugoslavia, mourning its dead, is no longer the envy of its neighbours

prepared to do battle for ethnically homogeneous Slovenia, but would save their mortars for Croatia.

It would be unfair to belittle the efforts of the peace conference, and too sweeping to write off Europe's attempts to halt the violence. But it is highly unlikely that even the proposed embargo on oil imports can make much difference now. The dreadful convergence of events in the last few days — Serbia's seizure of

power in the federal presidency, the brutal fighting around Dubrovnik and now the bombing of Zagreb — has extinguished the last dim beam of optimism.

In schoolyards children are abandoning games of cowboys and Indians and playing instead guerrillas and national guardsmen. Teenagers have been quick to see the appeal of military chic, donning military fatigues and badges. When they reach 18 they rush to the recruitment centres of

their respective sides. These are youthful hatreds which will take more than a generation to heal.

The very passion of the hope placed in the outside world, the belief that a *deus ex machina* could save Yugoslavia from its self-destruction, augured disappointment. Never has the gap between the rationalist tradition on which the Community and its mechanisms are based and the irrationalism of ethnic conflict been so clear. It is a mismatch

that proponents of a rapid expansion of the EC should ponder before they race ahead with the chimera of Beethoven's 9th symphony ringing in their ears.

An odd, almost tragicomic, interlude in this chapter of the country's agony was the visit at the weekend of Crown Prince Alexander, kissing the soil of a country he has never known. The prince is an amiable rather clueless man, whose naivety about the effects of his appearance here was breathtaking. Nationalism has had its best yet weekend out. I could barely hear the prince's pleas for negotiation and democracy over the chants of "Serbia, Serbia". The old national anthem (unheard for 45 years) was played incessantly for 48 hours. When the choir stopped, the crowds carried on, refusing to let it end.

Where there is no new hope, an old one has to suffice. The prince has left Serbia with a longing for monarchy stirring in his heart, but with no immediate prospect of its fulfilment. The message of peace he bore has been ignored, the sense of deprivation and grievance has deepened.

Strange to think that not so long ago, Yugoslavia was the most self-confident, in individualistic country in the Eastern bloc, which having escaped Stalin's clutches and achieved modest prosperity became the envy of its down-trodden neighbours. Now they cast pitiful glances at their former object of admiration. Belgrade these days is like a museum to the culture of the command economy. Its grimy office blocks bear the outdated logos of even more outdated state enterprises. The workforce has lost the motivation provided by the dinar's status as a semi-hard currency as its value crumbles. The faces one glimpses through the window panes of trams in the evening rush hour bear witness to the defeat of spirit and absolute resignation.

In the grandiose hotels built to pander to the whims of international businessmen, only the journalists remain. Pity the country which has no visitors but the Press. This means that it has been left to itself — that it is a country at war.



...and moreover
CRAIG BROWN

To coincide with a new biography of Sibly Colefax, might I add one or two reminiscences of my own to the treasure-trove of anecdotes about yet another of the great hostesses of the Thirties?

Tiny and usually described as "birdlike", Lady Pimmsoll could often be seen perching on a shelf at her own parties in her small feather hat, occasionally nibbling on a nut thrown to her by an obliging guest, or perhaps pecking on a few crumbs of discarded vol-au-vent.

Myfanwy Pimmsoll — she was married to the reclusive tennis-mog magnate, who would appear at her soirées briefly at half-time, bearing a plateful of orange-slices for the guests — is often portrayed as a voracious socialite, revelling in the company of the rich and the famous. But, beneath it all, as her biographer Joy Greenley points out, she was painfully shy. "I must, must tell you the very latest, my own adorable darlings!" she would greet her guests as they entered her salon, arms akimbo. "It's confirmed! I am in fact *painfully* shy! Rather wonderful, don't you think?"

nouncing that the dining-room was to be the venue for a marvellous game of that perennial favourite, "Tinned Peaches", with a prize of a diamond necklace going to the best imitation of a tinned peach. The prize eventually went to the sole participant, Virginia Woolf, whose tears over a matter of deep personal consequence Myfanwy had mistaken for an accurate rendering of the traditional heavy syrup accompaniment.

Anyone who was anyone flocked to Myfanwy Pimmsoll's parties. "Are you anyone?" her tireless parlourmaid Frank would ask everyone. "No, I'm no one," would come the reply, "but I did come with someone who is anyone." "Anyone I know?" Frank would then ask. "No, no one," would come the reply, "but then everyone knows someone who knows no one, which to my mind makes no one something of a someone." Then, from the drawing-room would come the bird-like tones of Lady Pimmsoll. "Anyone arrived yet?" she would trill, to which Frank would reply: "Not yet, ma'am, but there is a someone and a no one. Shall I send them through?"

Before long, the drawing-room would be choc-a-bloc with all sorts of fascinating people. There would be the inevitable rising young novelist with his blunt Northern manner, challenging Mr. Beverley Nichols to an arm-wrestle so as to settle once and for all the vexed question of exactly when azaleas are best

planted, while in another corner Arthur Askey — in those days a gifted young painter of the Abstract Expressionist school — would be reciting lewd verse in unison with Dame Edith Sitwell, accompanied by the then Wallis Simpson on castanets.

And always, Myfanwy Pimmsoll's hospitality would result in the most voluminous correspondence. The Pimmsoll/Woolf correspondence includes more than five hundred letters from Myfanwy to Virginia, on topics as diverse as the painful shyness of E.G. Wells and the shyness, often painful, of Horatio Bottomley. Of Woolf's letters to Pimmsoll, only one can be traced. "Please, please, please," it reads, "Stop writing me those interminable letters. Yours ever, V. Woolf (Mrs)." Delighted by this rare and precious reply, Myfanwy wrote back by return of post. "Dearest Darling Virginia," her letter begins. "That a writer of such genius should find time to pen a note to one as lowly as I! My lowly words alone cannot express what I feel, but please allow me to try..."

Those who knew Myfanwy Pimmsoll well — and they number two or three thousand — all testify that she was an intensely private person, never happier than when alone in her house with thirty or forty other intensely private people. Despite the legend, she resisted all charges of being a social-climber. "And if you want proof of that," she once wrote to Woolf, "you need only ask the Prince of Wales."

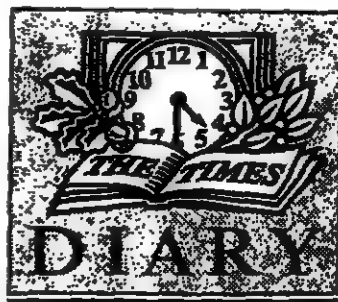
Telling sheep from scapegoats

WITH the Tory high command launching an inquiry into how it lost the political initiative to Labour, a few fingers are pointing to Saatchi & Saatchi. The chatter has been fuelled by the secondment to Conservative Central Office of Mary Bartholomew, a director of Shandwick, Britain's largest public relations company. Insiders are already likening the situation to the row during the last election campaign, when Lord Young secretly brought in Tim Bell behind the backs of Saatchi's. The only difference this time, they say, is that Chris Patten, the party chairman, has hedged his bets even before the campaign starts.

Officially, Bartholomew has been brought in to "restructure communications" at Central Office. But the secondment, which will run until election day, has caused some surprise at Saatchi's, which has its own PR division but was not consulted.

Central Office says their roles are quite different, but Bartholomew says: "The communications directorate has responsibility for advertising. So, clearly I will be aware of what is going on," she says cautiously.

Shandwick is offering Bartholomew's services free, but she is already said to be a more influential figure in Central Office than Stafford Everard, the relatively junior Saatchi's employee seconded to Smith Square.



will welcome her advice, as long as it is constructive.

Yesterday Saatchi's launched a new poster, with a picture of John Major and the slogan "The best for Britain". The last poster campaign, during the Labour conference, was so confusing that Labour MPs allegedly thought it was produced by Walworth Road.

● The buff-breasted sandpiper, a rare visitor from America, was spotted amid much excitement in Hampshire yesterday. By breakfast-time, 100 birdwatchers were waiting on Pennington marshes with their cameras, video, sound recording equipment and binoculars to record its every move. Eventually, the rare species came into view. Lenses were focused, the excitement was almost tangible... when down flapped a sparrowhawk and in a flurry of feathers, etc. etc.

And worse

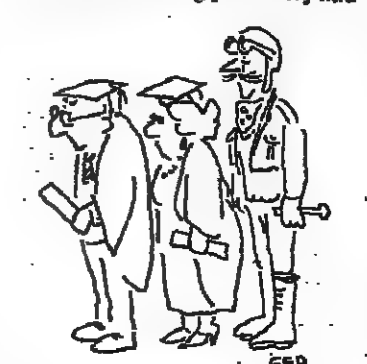
OUR phones and faxes were working overtime yesterday in response to the enquiry about alliterative poems that go through the entire alphabet. The lines quoted yesterday from the poem which begins "An Austrian army awfully array'd / boldly by battery besieged Belgrade" have appeared anonymously in various dictionaries of quotations and English

language primers. But as many readers pointed out, the original, by Alan Watts, first appeared in *The Literary Gazette* in 1820. Readers have also come up with a wide number of similar works. Watts ducked the letter "T" as too difficult, but one particularly ingenious first world war variant read: "Illustrious India instantly imports / Jamsabhis, jellies, jolting juggernauts". The real ingenuity, however, lies in the last line: "Zigzagging zeppelins zoom Zebrugwards." But no more, thank you.

Degrees of delay

BETTER late than never. London University is finally to honour its second world war graduates with the ceremony they were denied at the time. Half a century after they sweated for their finals, some 20,000 graduates who gained degrees between 1939 and 1945 have been invited to don cap and gown at a special ceremony at the Royal Festival Hall next June.

"I was prompted by the letters I had received from wartime graduates who felt strongly that they had



missed out," says London University's vice-chancellor, Stewart Sutherland. Students were denied a ceremony in bomb-struck London when much of the university

had already been evacuated to Bristol and Glasgow. Sutherland hopes the university's chancellor, the Princess Royal, will preside at the two-hour ceremony, when it is expected that 3,000 graduates will each receive a scroll recording their academic progress.

One of the university's most distinguished alumni of the time has already said he will not be there. "Those sorts of things are very boring. It's a farce," says Professor Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson, winner of the Nobel prize for chemistry in 1973.

£8,500 a throw

A 19th-century statue hidden 50 years ago in a farmhouse outside Copenhagen to protect it from the Nazis was unveiled in London yesterday at the Fine Arts and Antiques Fair at Olympia.

Daniel Mankowitz, who is selling the statue says: "Last summer, the new owners of the farmhouse came across a padlocked room. They found eight statues, all hidden there since 1940 when the Germans invaded." The long years in the dark have clearly done the statue no harm. Of French origin and dating from about 1850, it is a copy of a classical statue of a discus thrower. "Such pieces were quite common in the 19th century but today it is a collector's item," says Mankowitz. The sale is expected to realise £8,500.



WINTER'S BATTLEFIELD

Hard pounding is in store for the Tory party through the coming winter. This week's conference in Blackpool is mere morale-boosting, the Brussels ball before the Battle of Waterloo. Following John Major's ham-fisted announcement that he will not go to the polls this autumn, it matters not who is at present ahead in the polls. If, as modern psephology claims, the election will turn on the public's sense of economic well-being, the government is now flying on an autopilot set last year in the Treasury. All that individual ministers and the Conservative party collectively can do is to avoid silly mistakes and put the best face on their record.

But not quite all. The party's leader, John Major, has come through his first year in good shape. He has overcome most of the hurdles his critics set for him. He has emerged from the shadow of his predecessor. He is a personality in his own right, if somewhat colourless at least a rounded personality to be measured against Neil Kinnock and Paddy Ashdown. His performance overseas during the Gulf war, in East-West dealings and in Europe has been superb. He chaired the G7 meetings well and if he wins the next election can tackle the presidency of the European Community with confidence. Those who argued for an early election, for fear of Mr Major's novelty value wasting faster than his maturity increased, have been proved wrong.

As prime minister, Mr Major has pursued two diverse strands of Toryism. In economic policy, he has continued the extreme conservatism he learnt at the Treasury, leaning heavily on the Bank of England and the group of officials round Sir Terence Burns. And he has accepted a return to (relatively) fixed exchange rates as the lodestar of economic policy at the expense of short-term industrial growth. Not since the 1930s has a Conservative government appeared so immune to the responses of commercial life. Yet Mr Major has stuck doggedly to his last and paid his Chancellor the compliment of postponing the election to the final moment, in the expectation that prospects will be brighter in the new year.

If this is Mr Major's great gamble, it is his only one. The other plank in his platform is a return to a quite different Tory tradition, that of consensus in all things. This has delivered him some successes. The government has faced a series of triumphs and disasters in the European Community, and learnt to treat both imposters just the same. British diplomacy in Europe under the soft touch of Douglas Hurd and Mr Major himself has appeared to teeter on the brink of capitulation, as recently over economic union. But pending the outcome of Maastricht, Mr Major has remained true to Margaret Thatcher's policy, that the EC should learn to walk before it runs. Mr Major has carefully positioned himself to prevent Labour making capital out of any breakdown after Maastricht, by ensuring that Britain is not alone in its scepticism.

While all this is to the credit of Mr Major's stature and stamina, it barely registers in the polls. And while the economy may hold the key to the eventual election outcome, unemployment, health and education are the issues more often mentioned by voters. On all of them Labour is regarded as the party of most comfort. Mrs Thatcher was able in 1979 to exploit public anger at the decay of the public sector under Labour, but Labour is now able to exploit similar public anger at the expense of the Tories. The fiercest fighting this coming winter will be here, on the familiar battlefield of the welfare state.

The welfare state reforms of the 1980s were brave in ambition. But by making them tardily and piecemeal, the government has

been suspected for its motives yet won none of the glory of completion. The easy reforms were made first, notably the privatisation of monopoly utilities. The hard ones were botched, postponed or diluted: local council finance, rail privatisation, the restructuring of local education, internal markets in hospitals. The upheaval and uncertainty now prevalent in many if not most of the welfare services came ten years too late.

This uncertainty derives from modern Toryism's central dilemma: whether it still accepts the egalitarian premise underpinning the original welfare state. Do Tories believe that the public sector is about equality of opportunity and about redistributing resources from rich to poor, from fortunate to unfortunate? Or do they see government as merely the reluctant manager of an inherited public sector, one that could be run more efficiently if a bit of inequality, a bit of commercial cutting edge, were injected into it?

Mrs Thatcher's school and hospital reforms, which Mr Major has not disowned, suggest the latter. "Opted out" institutions may be excellent tools of public-sector management but their concomitant, a possible two-tier quality of service, rouses precisely the old fears the welfare state was designed to allay. Such new forms of rationing are not about equality of supply. They use market mechanisms to reward efficiency, even at the cost of some institutions and thus some individuals getting a disproportionate share of taxation. This may be excellent policy and yield a net benefit to the public weal. But the electorate clearly remains to be convinced, not least when opted-out schools are specially favoured by government.

This has nothing to do with privatisation. The Labour party is wrong to accuse the Tories of wanting to shift health or education into the profit-making sector. Such a characterisation of efforts to clean the Augean stables of Britain's hospital system is a simple lie, which should be made to rebound against the Labour party: nothing so betrays Labour's status as a party of public-sector producers. The Tories are struggling to free consumers from producer-dominance: hence the plethora of consumer contracts, charters and voucher proposals that may be easy to ridicule but are central to a revitalised welfare state.

What is harder for the Tories to establish is that, behind their government's reform programme, lies a belief in the redistributive principle and thus in the welfare state as a concept, rather than a management technique. To reform the welfare state, to make it consumer rather than producer-led without undermining it, was always to be the hardest of Thatcherism's tasks. Mr Major inherits from his predecessor a party image sceptical of "welfarism". But the Tories clearly have no stomach for dismantling public health, education, training or transport. Indeed they will be encouraging Norman Lamont to burn money at them between now and election day. If so, they need to tell the public what validates this expenditure, what social goal they and their leader mean it to achieve.

Those Tories who pine still for Mrs Thatcher claim to long for the old certainties, the knowledge of where they were going and why. Such pining is beside the point. The party has a leader who has passed the test of a difficult first year and faces an imminent election. One gamble, over the economy, is enough. But Mr Major would do himself and his party good this week if he put some of his ideological wares on show. If elections are to judge him by his conduct of the public sector, John Major's vision of that sector, particularly of the welfare state, would be the ideal theme for his conference speech.

ARRESTING A KILLER

Breast cancer is the second most common fatal disease in women under 65. Mortality, at about 15,000 a year, is higher per head in Britain than almost all other Western countries. And the earlier that common forms of the disease are detected, the more likely they are to be curable. Here are more than sufficient reasons to make the prevention, detection and treatment of breast cancer one of the health service's highest priorities.

It was in the course of trying to emphasise this need that Sir Donald Acheson, the government's retiring chief medical officer, earned some justified medical reproaches last month. He remarked that regular self-examination by women — much encouraged over the last decade — seemed to be having no impact, as mortality was still rising.

Sir Donald was laudably advocating x-ray screening, which is now available to women between 50 and 65. But he added that there was no evidence of benefit from regular self-examination, which could give women a false sense of security. Many women in that age-bracket had been following medical advice to check themselves regularly. He seemed to be telling them not to bother, to rely on x-rays instead.

Medically, this was unsound, as cancer specialists have since insisted. Many times, they have testified, breast cancer has been diagnosed early after a woman reported a lump which she had found by inspecting her breasts. Furthermore, women have been encouraged to believe that there was something they could do themselves to hold breast cancer at bay, and he seemed to be urging a fatalistic passivity and blind reliance on doctors and their technology.

His successor, Dr Kenneth Calman, last week issued guidance that while women need not check their own breasts "ritually" (whatever that may mean) they should be "aware" of them every day and should examine them deliberately from time to time, reporting anything worrying to their

doctor. This was a clumsy effort to avoid embarrassing Sir Donald by a straight contradiction, and it left confused what ought to have been cleared up. Those women who are only going to remember to check their breasts if they do so methodically on a certain day every month are obviously well advised to continue.

The national x-ray programme for the 50-65 group has now completed its first year, and figures published yesterday show it has exceeded expectations. Of nearly a million women invited for screening, just over 70 per cent attended. Of the 4,384 cancers detected, 40 per cent were caught early enough for treatment to make a big difference.

Such encouraging results should prompt a more activist policy. Free x-ray screening for the 50-65 age-group has still not been promoted widely enough — when was it ever advertised on television, for instance? — and nothing less than a campaign equivalent to the mass anti-tubercular x-ray screening of the 1950s and 1960s is needed. Nearly 30 per cent of women most at risk declined an x-ray: that is too many.

The fear of some doctors that publicity could increase anxiety among women needs to be met not by less publicity but by more, until a breast-screening appointment becomes a routine every woman of the right age takes for granted. And the age group singled out as statistically most at risk is drawn more narrowly than in some countries, where regular x-ray screening is available for women in their forties.

Though he spoke wisely, the controversy over Sir Donald's remark has focused attention on one of the major killers of women. Even leaving aside the appalling human cost in death and suffering, the more advanced the disease when treatment starts, the more expensive and difficult the treatment is bound to be. Early detection is good medicine — and good medical economics.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-762 5000

I have not sought, I do not seek...

From Mrs Margaret Thatcher, OM, FRS, MP for Finchley (Conservative)

Sir, I wish to make it clear that I have not sought and I do not seek a hereditary peerage. What a pity no one checked with me before a misleading report was issued (October 3). Yours sincerely, MARGARET THATCHER, House of Commons, October 7.

National lottery

From Mr Philip R. Green

Sir, Suggestions that football pools would be seriously affected by the introduction of a national lottery ignore several fundamental differences between British pools and their overseas counterparts.

Britain's pools operations are the world's oldest, they offer huge prizes and are firmly established in the recreational and social fabric of a nation where football commands a passionate following.

Overseas pools seriously affected by lotteries never enjoyed such prominence in their countries. They were invariably much smaller, offered far lower prizes, had totally different formats to the British pools, and some were not even based on domestic fixtures. While it is not surprising that several failed poorly when confronted by new competition offering much larger prizes, conclusions based on these examples are of little value in forecasting the likely outcome in Britain. In Italy, for example, large-scale lotteries are available yet the pools continue to thrive and exceed lotteries in annual sales.

The pools and lotteries appeal to different markets. Pools players are attracted by the process of making their selections, the opportunity to apply their skill and knowledge of football, and the sense that, in part, they control the outcome of their wagers.

Lotteries, on the other hand, have purely random outcomes. Skill and knowledge are not factors; each ticket-holder has an equal chance of winning. In their pursuit of the big prize, some prefer the outcome to be based solely on chance; others prefer to apply knowledge and judgment. There should be opportunities for both preferences to be exercised.

Research shows that lotteries have far broader appeal across the socio-economic spectrum than the more segmented market attracted to football pools. This suggests that the vast majority of lottery revenues will represent new funds, not a diversion of existing wagers, and that the success of the lottery need not, and will not, be at the expense of the pools. The two can co-exist successfully and the impact on the pools should be only marginal.

A national lottery would bring significant net economic and social benefits to Britain, including substantial employment, just as it does in every other Western industrialised nation.

Yours faithfully, PHILIP R. GREEN (Author, *The Whole World Lottery Guide*), 44 Wellington Street East, Suite 201, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, September 30.

Booker shortlist

From Dr Alastair Niven

Sir, Conrad Goolden (October 1) attacks this year's Booker shortlist for its "narrow range". Could any two writers be less similar in subject matter than Ben Okri and William Trevor, more stylistically apart than Martin Amis and Timothy Mo, so totally different in their approaches to style than Roddy Doyle and Robinson Mistry?

Each year the Booker list surprises individual readers with its assemblage. But Jeremy Treglown and the surviving members of his team have been adventurous in their recognition of new talent, international in their sweep, and unsectarian in their preferences. Taking six different species from the zoo and asking them to race each other sets the judges a tricky task, but the rest of us can enjoy the fun.

Judges of being confined in their taste to NW3, I see them as aboard a jumbo jet which is carefully selecting where to land around the world. Nicholas Mosley obviously feels that the crew has hijacked the plane, but I for one am glad to be taken on their mystery tour.

Yours faithfully, ALASTAIR NIVEN (Editor, *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*), Eden House, 28 Weathercock Lane, Woburn Sands, Buckinghamshire, October 1.

Threat to Endurance

From Sir Vivian Fuchs, FRS

Sir, It seems that in the present climate of financial retrenchment there is some possibility that HMS Endurance, the Royal Navy's only ice-worthy vessel, will be decommissioned (latest report, July 29; letters, August 1, 5, 9). It is pertinent to point out that she is a representative of the British government's interest in, and concern about, the future of the Antarctic region.

There are now some 35 nations active or interested in that area,

Harris statue is for his airmen too

From Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Michael Beetham

Sir, You suggest (leading article, October 5) that the Bomber Command Association should abandon its project to erect a statue to Sir Arthur Harris and rather direct its attention to the proper commemoration of his airmen, so many of whom lost their lives in the bombing campaign.

As you say in your leader, Harris was treated shabbily after the war, a situation Churchill sought to correct when he returned to power in 1951 by offering him the peerage which had been given to other war leaders. Harris refused at that stage but did accept a baronetcy. He was not concerned about his own treatment but he was bitter that his efforts to get his airmen the recognition of a campaign medal did not succeed.

The Times's support for such a campaign medal is welcome but, when this association last tried for such a medal in the mid-1980s, the case was turned down by the government.

I do not propose to debate the effectiveness of the bombing now but I would certainly challenge your conclusion that the policy failed.

What Harris did was to implement the directive given to him by the war cabinet led by Churchill as head of the national coalition government. That Harris followed his directive with the single-minded determination of a great commander is what one would expect. That he sometimes argued strongly against the directive is true but he never did other than follow his directive nor attack a target that was not authorised.

In this connection I must take issue with your statement that Harris's superiors "never persuaded him... to concentrate on precise targets such as oil refineries or transport". In the spring of 1944 Bomber Command and the US 8th Air Force were placed under the operational control of Eisenhower to prepare the way for Overlord, the Normandy invasion. While the American bombers concentrated on the oil refineries Bomber Command's precision attacks on the communications system in north-

west Europe were devastating in their effect on the German ability to move their forces to counter the Allied invasion.

You should not forget either Bomber Command's attacks on the U-boat pens, the sinking of the Tirpitz and the mining of German ports, all in support of the Battle of the Atlantic; nor the attacks on the V-1 launching sites when London was once again under indiscriminate attack in 1944 and on Peenemünde which seriously disrupted the German V-2 rocket programme.

Dresden, which has generated so much emotion, was one of seven cities which Bomber Command and the US 8th Air Force were ordered to attack by the combined chiefs of staff in early 1945 and endorsed by both Churchill and Roosevelt.

Harris carried an enormous burden for nearly three-and-a-half years. He was one of our greatest wartime commanders and those of his men who survive today, members of this association, want both him and the 55,000 of their comrades who sacrificed their lives to be commemorated by a statue.

The plinth of the statue will state that it is in memory of both. Next year is the 50th anniversary of Sir Arthur taking over Bomber Command and there could be no more suitable place for his statue than next to Dowding. There, side by side, we shall be commemorating the man who saved the nation from defeat in the Battle of Britain and the man who, when there was no other way of striking back, led the campaign which paved the way for victory.

Questions about the morality of bombing would be better addressed primarily to those who gave Harris his directive. But those who pose them should bear in mind the desperate situation the nation then faced. A statue is the very least Harris and his men deserve.

Yours etc., MICHAEL BEETHAM (President, Bomber Command Association), RAF Museum, Hendon, NW9, October 7.

Intelligence museum

From Mr James E. Siddelley

Sir, I note that the wartime offices of Special Operations Executive in Baker Street are available once again for rent, some 50 years after SOE moved in and began what was, by any standard, a remarkable series of guerrilla-type incidents aimed at weakening the German war machine.

The work of this and other intelligence-gathering and using organisations deserves to be adequately celebrated by the establishment of a permanent museum of intelligence. It is a fact that so many of the buildings associated with quite crucial aspects of the war go unmarked. Some have been

destroyed, others earmarked for destruction.

The end of the cold war is a time for reassessment and dissemination of information, rather than continuing to ignore the contributions of men and women, some long dead, others very much still alive, without whom the nature of our present culture would be very different and undoubtedly worse. The time has surely come for the locations associated with our national intelligence effort to be clearly and permanently distinguished.

Sincerely, JAMES E. SIDDELEY, 37 Denison Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport, Greater Manchester, September 25.

Fixed-term parliament

From Lord Colbrook

Sir, Neil Kinnock has announced (report, October 2) that he is in favour of fixed-term parliaments. Has he really thought the matter through? His conversion seems to have been very sudden.

In this country we have fixed-term parliaments in the sense that no parliament can last for more than the term of five years fixed by law and very few countries have constitutions preventing a dissolution before a given number of years have expired. Japan, Norway and the United States seem to be the exceptions.

In most cases Parliament can be brought to an end in certain circumstances and the more such circumstances there are the more unusual it is to talk of such parliaments being elected for a fixed term.

Oxford's gain

From Professor Howard Temperley

Sir, Oxford's intention of establishing a "world-class centre for American studies" ("Oxford seizes the American initiative", *Education*, September 30) is welcome news. Less welcome is the other development to which the article draws attention, namely the impending dissolution of the world-famous Institute of United States Studies by the University of London and the drastic reduction in American teaching within that university.

Where once there were a dozen or more professors, readers and senior lecturers teaching American history, politics and literature, many of them in posts originally established with

American assistance, there are now none.

Impressive though Oxford's library and archival resources are they scarcely compare with London's. It is still to London that most of our graduate students go to pursue their research. Nationally the number of students wishing to enrol in American studies courses increases every year. To outsiders London's actions appear wrongheaded beyond belief. But perhaps London's failure will prove Oxford's opportunity.

Yours faithfully, HOWARD TEMPERLEY, University of East Anglia, School of English and American Studies, Norwich, Norfolk, October 2.

Labour's NHS 'prejudices'

From Sir Norman Fowler, MP for Sutton Coldfield (Conservative)

Sir, I believe that the debate on the so-called "privatisation" of the National Health Service reveals more about the Labour party than the government.

Labour raised this issue in both the 1983 and 1987 general elections, in remarkably similar terms to those now being used. Its charge was that the government intended to change the whole basis of financing the health service from taxation to private insurance. No such change has taken place. In its 12 years of office the government has always specifically rejected any such proposal. In 1983, the proposal along those lines by the Central Policy Review Staff was quickly thrown out.

I would suggest that the real issue in health is not the system of finance but how best to manage a vital public service with a budget of over £30 billion and employing around one million people. By any standards that is an immense challenge, but Labour shows no signs that it understands the issue, let alone that it has plans to tackle it.

One of the most important reforms of the last few years was the introduction of general managers, following Sir Roy Griffiths's important report of 1983. These changes were opposed outright by the Labour party, which now says that it would remove the option of contracting out ancillary services.

The advantage of contracting out is that outside specialist companies often have the skill and expertise to do the job better and cheaper than the in-house organisation. Like managers in all other areas, the health service at present has the right to check their standard of service and costs in this way.

However, Mr Robin Cook says that he would give up these cost savings on the basis that all the services provided by the private sector are worse by definition than those provided by the public sector. It is of course no secret why Labour has adopted this policy: the public-service unions have demanded it.

The health service that Labour envisages would be heavily centralised and all lines would run back to the secretary of state. It would spurn all contact with the private sector in health and the private sector outside. It would be in lock to the public-service unions, in spite of the fact that over the last 15 years it has been industrial action by those unions that has most increased waiting lists. Above all, new ideas would be smothered.

Whether Labour were to spend more money or not, its present prejudices would put back the development of the National Health Service, not advance it. Yours faithfully, NORMAN FOWLER (Secretary of State for Social Services, 1981-7), House of Commons, October 7.

Comet displays

From Mr Peter Symes

Sir, The report about the DHSS Comet (September 28) needs clarification. After a 14-year restoration it has, in fact, been flying since 1987 but cannot be housed in the Shuttleworth Collection because of the limitations of the grass runways at Old Warden aerodrome upon the operation of a quite "hot" aeroplane. Therefore, with the generous co-operation of British Aerospace, it is shown on displays from their airfield at Hatfield where the restoration was held — not at White Waltham.

The Comet is but one "record-breaker" at Old Warden aerodrome, another being the Percival Gull Six in which the New Zealander, Jean Batten, set out on the very first solo by anyone to her country of birth 55 years ago.

The Shuttleworth Collection is a charity that would welcome more visitors in order to help raise the £400,000 needed this year to keep a unique and high proportion of the country's aviation heritage in "flying trim".

Yours faithfully, PETER SYMES (General Manager), The Shuttleworth Collection, Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, October 2.

In search of socks

From Mr Peter G. Cox

Sir, When young, my mother was often minded to tell me that if I didn't change my socks more frequently they would "walk off by themselves". With no disrespect to Mr Peter Sallis (October 7) perhaps his socks have, in an odd sort of way, "voted with their feet".

Yours faithfully, PETER G. COX, The Homestead, Little Canfield, Dummow, Essex, October 7.

From Mr Brinsley Black

Sir, I have never met Mr Peter Sallis, but I do know where his eight missing socks are. They are in the top left-hand drawer of the chest in my dressing-room.

Yours etc., BRINSLEY BLACK, 17 Lansdowne Walk, W11, October 7.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 8 1991

700 jobs lost in Silicon Glen

NEARLY 700 jobs have been lost in Scotland's "Silicon Glen" with the closure of a Livingston electronics plant. Unisys, the American company, said the closure of its Scottish plant with the loss of 686 jobs was part of a worldwide cost-cutting measure involving 10,000 redundancies, two-thirds of which are to take place in America. The Livingston plant opened in 1980 to make cheque processing and credit-card reading equipment and other specialist electronic gear for the banking and financial markets. As part of the rationalisation, the plant's work will be moved to factories in America, France and The Netherlands. The company, which employs 65,000 worldwide, said the Scottish jobs would be phased out by March next year.

John Burke, vice-president, said: "The decision to close the plant was a very difficult one. Livingston employees over the years have created a high-quality operation." The decision followed a comprehensive worldwide study of the company's operations, taking into account the current economic and computer industry recession and changing technological trends. Unisys was formed in 1986 by the merger of Burroughs and Sperry, and has suffered heavy losses for the past two years.

Monarch turns

Monarch Resources, the Venezuelan gold operation now under new management, has trimmed its loss for the six months to end-June to \$1.88 million (\$3.73 million loss). Plant efficiencies have improved and joint development of a new mine is in the offing. *Times, page 26*

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7350 (-0.0080)
German mark 2.9139 (-0.0023)
Exchange index 90.7 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCKMARKET

FT 30 share 1989.7 (-29.0)
FT-SE 100 2596.2 (-28.4)
New York Dow Jones 2949.02 (-12.74)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 24330.83 (-266.07)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Investment Diet 287p (+10p)
NFC 82p (+9p)
FALLS:
Kunick 28p (-9p)
Carlton Comm 495p (-13p)
Royal 337p (-15p)
Reluge 731p (-17p)
General Accident 527p (-16p)
Britannic 531p (-19p)
Rank Org 659p (-14p)
Nu-Swift 342p (-12p)
Safes 271p (-14p)
Cable & Wireless 581p (-12p)
RMC Group 602p (-11p)
Redland 524p (-10p)
British Aerospace 401p (-13p)
Hammerson A 577p (-10p)
BAT 650p (-13p)
Eunatic Units 485p (-28p)
Bossey & Hawkes 810p (-10p)
Closing Prices...Page 27

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10 1/4%
3-month Interbank 10 1/4%
3-month eligible bills 9 1/4%
US: Prime Rate 6%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.02-5.00%
30-year bonds 103 1/2-103 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.7350
£: DM1.8752
£: Sfr1.4718
£: FF5.7155
£: Yen129.30
£: Index 90.7
ECU £0.702414 SDR £0.783838
£: ECU1.428661 £: SDR1.276280
London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$359.20 pm \$359.70
close \$359.50-360.00 (2307-20-207.73)
New York:
Comex \$359.75-360.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$21.85 bbl (\$21.75)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.1 August (1987-100)
* Denotes midday trading price.

Day denounces 'third parties' for speculation on BAe



Sir Graham: assured

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT
SHAREHOLDERS in British Aerospace yesterday voted 99.8 per cent in favour of the £432 million cash call as Sir Graham Day set out to stamp his mark on the company and rebuild confidence. Sir Graham, BAe's "temporary chairman", fiercely condemned "third parties" who, he said, had encouraged takeover speculation. He told the shareholders in Britain's largest manufacturer: "I would hate to see this company called General

Electric. It does not quite have the same ring."

Defending the profit warning that accompanied the rights issue, Sir Graham denied BAe had been slow to recognise the scale of the cash outflow. A slump in American demand for regional jets and intensified competition in the UK car market had developed very suddenly, he said.

However, he was confident BAe's non-defence businesses would start to recover next year. And despite repeated questions, he was adamant that the rights cash would be enough

to underpin BAe's restructuring programme.

Although the weakness of the UK property market had led to disappointing profits from Arlington Securities, Sir Graham was satisfied that the strategy of in-house re-development was correct.

Institutional shareholders, who had privately voiced concerns about BAe's management, did not speak up. It was left to small investors to cross-examine the board about the hiatus and the weakness of the share price.

Sir Roland Smith as chairman less than two weeks ago, answered every question himself. It was typically assured, and precise, performance.

The search for a permanent chairman had begun, he said. But Sir Graham stressed: "I have no intention of acting in a caretaker capacity." He intended to see that the "maximum progress" was made by the management team in implementing the company's restructuring strategy.

Sir Graham took care to highlight the more promising elements of

BAe's business. The Airbus programme, in which BAe is a partner and a large supplier, would generate "significant" returns by the mid-1990s, he said. Rover's new, up-market products and ever-closer relationship with Honda, the Japanese car maker, offered the prospect of "sustained and significant" profitability.

However, BAe's position as the leading defence contractor in Western Europe would remain the group's mainstay. Sir Graham also said he did not rule out further joint ventures with GEC.

Names sue Outhwaite for £150m

By JONATHAN PRYNN

RICHARD Outhwaite, a leading marine underwriter, was accused yesterday of "single-handed negligence" when almost 1,000 members of the insurance market became the first to sue a Lloyd's syndicate in court.

The names are claiming £150 million damages after suffering losses of at least £260 million. Anthony Boswood, counsel for 987 members who backed syndicate 317/661, told the High Court: "It is probably the case that never in the commercial history of the City of London has so much of other people's money been lost by the single-handed negligence of one man."

The trial is the first in an expected stream of actions by names on the hardest hit syndicates; it comes at a time of unprecedented upheaval at the 303-year-old market, which earlier this year announced £510 million losses for the 1988 year of account. The 987 names who have suffered the record losses allege negligent underwriting by Richard Outhwaite, head of RHM Outhwaite, the firm that ran syndicate 317/661. The names are also suing for damages the 81 members' agents that placed them on the stricken syndicate. The allegations are all denied.

The syndicate underwrote

31 "run-off" contracts in 1982, which reinsured other syndicates against losses incurred as a result of asbestos claims in America. Claims on policies written as long ago as the Forties began to flow through to the syndicate after massive compensation awards were made to victims of asbestos illnesses in the American courts in the Eighties.

Mr Boswood, on behalf of the names, told Mr Justice Saville that American casualty business, the type of insurance that Mr Outhwaite was reinsuring, "was reckoned to be among the most dangerous and volatile in the world" long before the policies were written. Mr Boswood alleged that Mr Outhwaite knew "virtually nothing" about that area of insurance. Given that Mr Outhwaite entered into the contracts "entirely on his own," without reference to anyone else at his agency, Mr Boswood said.

The court heard that the policies violated one of the "first principles learned by every school leaver entering insurance." Instead of the losses of the few being shouldered by the many, Mr Outhwaite's underwriting achieved "precisely the opposite," Mr Boswood said.

Mr Outhwaite was "plainly negligent" when his conduct is considered globally, but even in mundane matters, such as

record keeping and the administration of the box, the standard of competence displayed by Mr Outhwaite and his staff was "utterly deplorable and indefensible by any standards."

In his defence, Mr Outhwaite is expected to argue that he took the decision to underwrite the policies on the basis of the best information then available and in accordance with sensible underwriting principles.

The case, which has taken two years to prepare, is not expected to be completed before Christmas. That it has finally made it to the courts at all is a tribute to the determination and organisational skills of Peter Nutting, the chairman of the Outhwaite 1982 Names Association and his fellow committee members. Mr Nutting is also a member of the Council of Lloyd's.

The Outhwaite names have already stumped up nearly £2 million to cover legal costs and stand to lose another £2.5 million if the case goes against them. The trial will serve as an important test case for the other names action groups currently pushing their grievances laboriously towards the courts. However, if the trial goes against the Outhwaite names, the other action groups may have to abandon their actions.

Tunnel payouts delayed as costs rise

By MARTIN WALLER



"TML has to mobilise": Sir Alastair Morton giving his progress report yesterday

THE total cost of the Channel Tunnel has soared by another £446 million to more than £5 billion, prompting a delay of a year before the first dividends can be paid. Sir Alastair Morton, the Eurotunnel chief executive, said in his latest progress report.

The news sent the shares 28p lower to 496p. The report was accompanied by a tough warning that the successful completion of the project, and the running of even the limited service now envisaged after design changes were imposed on safety grounds by a joint Anglo-French watchdog, would depend on lost ground being made up by Trans-Manche Link, the contractors' consortium.

Eurotunnel said the contractors were between two and six months behind on the mechanical and electrical fitting out work.

Sir Alastair said: "It's in TML's hands. They have to bring it together. It can be done, but TML has to mobilise wholeheartedly to do it."

Eurotunnel's interim report for 1991 contains its assessment of progress at end-June. It shows that the peak funding requirement for the scheme, expected in 1996, had risen by £446 million to £8.05 billion over the previous year. Safety modification to the rolling stock had cost £256 million in extra work and lost revenue and contributed to additional interest costs of £148 million, while other costs had risen by £42 million.

The first dividend is being put back a year, to be paid in 2000 out of 1999's profits. The project up to the planned opening of the tunnel to the public in June 1993 is forecast to cost £7.37 billion, with £4.2 billion spent so far.

Project delays, page 1
Comment, page 25

Asda chiefs fly on US mission

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

PATRICK Gilling, chairman of Asda Group, and Ron Scott, the group's finance director, are flying to New York this morning to meet the group's bond and noteholders. Asda is in the middle of raising £357 million via a nine-for-ten rights issue, which is meeting some opposition from shareholders.

Paul Dowling, Asda's group corporate affairs director, emerging from a board meeting at the group's Leeds headquarters, confirmed the visit to America but said that rumours that they were to meet a potential bidder were nonsense.

Asda revealed it was close to breaching important covenants on its loans when it unveiled its rights issue last week. Mr Dowling said nego-

tiations with the group's bankers to amend the covenants are continuing. The subunderwriting is complete.

The group, which has £931 million of debt in total, needs bankers speaking for 50 per cent of the value of its £500 million multi-option facility, and £260 million transferable term loan facility, to agree the amendments. National Westminster Bank, representing 24 per cent of the loans, is supporting the changes.

In the rights issue document, Asda says it will approach the holders of its \$68 million series A notes and its \$142 million series B notes with a view to negotiating a relaxation of certain covenants.

Times, page 26

Brent Walker shares surge

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in Brent Walker jumped 44p to 204p as speculation mounted that the debt-laden leisure group was close to agreeing its long-awaited refinancing with its bankers.

In the City, however, dealers tried to play down the significance of the share price rise, which they said was more of a technical adjustment than an indication that the company had turned a corner.

They suggested that as the refinancing of Brent Walker's £1.4 billion of debt neared completion, speculators were buying shares to close short positions. Some 1.8 million shares changed hands.

The cautious optimism at Brent Walker is based on the belief that the company and its banks have persuaded

Michael Smurfit, the Irish businessman who controls 25 per cent of Brent Walker's convertible bonds, to accept revised restructuring terms. Mr Smurfit's 25 per cent should give the company the 75 per cent majority it needs to secure bondholders' approval. But even if each of Brent Walker's 47 banks give the go-ahead, the company must still gain approval from its ordinary shareholders before the refinancing is agreed.

However, yesterday, Count Alexei Orlov, who leads Brent Walker's shareholders' action committee, stepped up his campaign for the rival proposals from Lornho, the international trading group, to be considered. Count Orlov said he would meet Tiny Rowland, Lornho's chairman, today.

Dispute erupts over Maxwell sale

By NEIL BENNETT

A DISPUTE has broken out between Maxwell Communication Corporation and Reed International, the publishing groups, over Reed's acquisition of MCC's American directories division.

MCC yesterday announced that it had sold its Maxwell Macmillan directories division in America to Reed. In its press release, MCC claimed that the company had a book value, including intangible assets, of \$130 million. This figure came as a surprise to Peter Davis, Reed's chairman, who said: "The book value shown in their offering memorandum was higher. We are busy checking it."

The public announcements by the two companies also disagree on the price being



Davis: 'delighted' with deal paid. Reed claims it is paying \$145 million in cash, \$1 million less than in MCC's statement.

Mr Davis said that the dispute would not affect the outcome of the deal. "We are delighted with the acquisition. We paid substantially less

than they originally asked, and the deal will improve our earnings per share," he said.

The Maxwell Macmillan directories division's main publication is *Who's Who in America*, the definitive guide to the country's rich and famous, as well as a range of specialist biographic directories. One of the company's most important assets is its library of 220,000 biographies.

The division publishes a range of business directories, including the *Who Owns Whom* series. According to MCC's figures, the company had sales of \$41 million and a profit before interest of \$13 million in the year to end-March.

The disposal is an important stage in MCC's reorganisation. The group hopes to raise \$750 million in

disposals to meet its next debt payment in October next year.

Robert Maxwell, the chairman, said at the group's annual meeting last month that he hoped to make the payment ahead of schedule. In the past three weeks, the group has also sold two publishing companies to Thomson Corp, and Pergamon Professional has been sold to McGraw-Hill. These, together with the Reed deal, have raised \$214.5 million.

Reed hopes to combine its new business with Bowker/Martindale-Hubbell, its existing directories publisher in America, to reduce costs. Mr Davis said Reed also hoped to improve earnings from Maxwell Macmillan by introducing electronic publishing, including on-line services and compact discs.

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NFC deal returns French to UK

By MATTHEW BOND

COMPAGNIE Internationale des Wagons-Lits et du Tourisme, the French travel group, is returning to the British travel market by paying £10.5 million for Pickfords Business Travel from NFC, the freight group.

The deal does not include Pickfords' retail travel business, the future of which is still being reviewed by NFC. James Watson, NFC's chairman, said the business travel division would now benefit from the economies of scale and increased purchasing power that NFC was never in a position to provide.

He added: "We stated some time ago that we were undertaking a review of the future for our travel operations in the overall strategy of NFC. Throughout the review process we retained a clear objective that whatever decision was taken it had to take into account the best interests of employees, shareholders and customers. This sale meets those objectives."

The 700 staff employed at Pickfords' 77 business travel outlets will all be retained by Wagon-Lits. The deal also entitles the French group to use the Pickfords Business Travel name for three years. Wagon-Lits' joint venture with Thomas Cook in Britain ended some years ago.

Pickfords Business Travel had sales of more than £200 million last year. If that level were maintained this year, turnover at Wagon-Lits would grow to about £1.9 billion. The French group is the third-biggest travel company outside Japan.

Gas gets \$130m

BRITISH Gas has raised \$130 million through the issue of a 30-year eurodollar zero coupon bond, lead managed by Goldman Sachs. The bond bears no interest but British Gas has to repay \$1.5 billion on maturity in 2021. The effective cost of the money is 8.77 per cent.

TSB sells broker to Norwich

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

TSB, the loss-making banking group, has sold Hill House Hammond, the insurance broking subsidiary, to Norwich Union for £34.5 million as part of its strategy of concentrating on core businesses.

The deal represents Norwich Union's first appearance on the high street and is part of the insurer's plan to improve its distribution network. Hill House is one of Britain's largest retail brokers, with 133 branches and 1,000 staff. The company specialises in motor and household insurance. Brokerage income in the current year should reach £19 million and pre-tax profits are forecast to be £2.7 million.

The price, at 11 times earnings, is higher than most acquisitions of insurance companies in the past two years, and suggests the market for financial services companies may be improving as the recession recedes.

TSB, of which Sir Nicholas Goodison is chairman, is keen to sell all its non-core interests and focus on its retail bank, its

in-house life insurer, and Hill Samuel, the merchant bank. Non-core interests include Swan National, the car rental business, Wescol, the ship broker, and Noble Lowndes, an employee benefit consultant.

TSB bought Hill House as part of its £777 million acquisition of Hill Samuel in 1987, during its ill-fated attempt to become a broad-based financial services group. Dolf Mootham, TSB's finance director, yesterday stressed that Hill House had been a growing and successful company during TSB's four-year ownership, and that TSB was making a "valuable profit" on the sale to reinvest in the bank's main business. By contrast, Hill Samuel lost £319 million due to heavy bad debt provisions.

Norwich Union plans to retain Hill House's status as an independent general insurance broker, but hopes to convert it into a tied agent to sell Norwich Union life assurance policies.



Time to sell: Sir Nicholas plans non-core disposals

Nadir's court move fails

By ANGELA MACKAY

ASIL Nadir failed to have contempt of court proceedings struck out in the High Court yesterday, leaving the way clear for some of his personal creditors to continue their efforts to jail the chairman of Polly Peck, the collapsed fresh fruit, hotels and electronics group.

The judgment came on the eve of a meeting of Polly Peck's creditors seeking to accelerate the administration by abandoning a plan to float Del Monte fresh fruit. Several buyers for the American subsidiary have emerged, including United Partners, the venture capital concern.

In making his ruling yes-

terday, Mr Justice Millett had to consider whether the applicants' contempt case was legally bound to fail when it came to court before he could strike out the application.

The Inland Revenue and eight banks, who are owed about £80 million, allege they were not told details of a \$27 million deal last December when Mr Nadir agreed to sell his 98 per cent stake in Impex, a Turkish bank. They allege the deal was a breach of Mr Nadir's court undertaking, in bankruptcy proceedings, not to dispose of assets.

The bankruptcy proceedings were later dropped after Mr Nadir promised to pay his

debts and formally assigned the \$27 million from the Impex sale to his creditors. However, the Turkish purchasers have not paid for the shares yet.

Mr Nadir was refused leave to appeal against the ruling, but can still apply directly to the Court of Appeal for leave.

At today's creditors' committee meeting, the members will also ask Coopers & Lybrand, the administrators, to give a firm deadline for the long-awaited examination of the accounts of Polly Peck's assets in the unofficial republic of northern Cyprus. Polly Peck went into administration a year ago owing £1.5 billion.

Tees port sale attracts four bids

By ROSS TREMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THREE companies are bidding against a management consortium to buy Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority, the first trust port to be privatised under the government's sale programme. The port is expected to fetch up to £120 million.

The rival bidders are Ocean Group, the diversified freight and environmental company; Maritime Transport Services, which owns the Isle of Grain container terminal; and Humber Holdings, the company half owned by Powell Duffryn, which provides port services for Hull, Immingham and Grimsby.

The size and expertise of companies interested in Tees and Hartlepool suggests that the Medway Port Authority, the Clyde Port Authority and the Port of Tilbury, which are also well advanced on the path to privatisation, may also be the subject of competitive bids.

Ocean Group raised £88 million in a rights issue in March, with a view to making acquisitions. The money remains unspent. The company's activities include North Sea towage.

Maritime Transport Services is chaired by Geoffrey Parker, the former chairman of the Port of Felixstowe, who set up the Isle of Grain project with Peter de Savary and then bought control with a group of fellow managers and institutional backing. The company has additional operations on the Manchester Ship Canal and at Neath, Mid Glamorgan, plus a 35 per cent interest in a new container terminal on Malla.

Powell Duffryn has made its indicative bid for Tees through Humber Holdings, a joint venture with the Holloway family, which runs ports on Humber. Powell has a shipping line, Stevenson Group, and storage and distribution interests.

The four bidding groups yesterday began due diligence investigations. Final bids have to be submitted on October 30.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Kunick shares hurt by profit warning

KUNICK, the pub amusement machine and care service group, saw its shares lose nearly a quarter of their value yesterday after a profit warning.

The share price slid by 8p to 27.5p on the news that pre-tax profits for the year to end-September "will be around 20 per cent lower than current market expectations". Kunick has been hit by a sharp decline in the number of pub customers and visitors to the company's leisure attractions, which include the London Dungeon. Analysts have downgraded their profit forecasts for the year from between £15 million and £16 million to about £12.5 million.

New head at Capital

CAPITAL Radio, the London commercial radio group, has appointed Richard Eyre as managing director, filling the post left vacant following the departure of Nigel Wainman, who left to join Carlton Communications. Mr Eyre, aged 37, is currently media director of Bartle Bogle Hegarty, the advertising agency.

Headlam pegs payout

HEADLAM Group, the fabric and footwear manufacturer which has agreed to acquire Hickson Flooring Distributors, reports a fall in pre-tax profits to £213,000 (£269,000) in the six months to end-June. Turnover was £11.5 million (£12.1 million). Earnings were 1.41p (1.75p) a share. The interim dividend stays at 0.75p.

Invergordon resists

SHAREHOLDERS in Invergordon Distillers continue to reject the £286 million bid from Whyte and Mackay, the subsidiary of American Brands. By last Friday, W&M had valid acceptances on 23,288 shares, 0.02 per cent of Invergordon.

Before bidding, W&M owned 450,000 Invergordon shares and has since acquired a further 15,000, giving it a 0.4 per cent stake. The bid, cleared by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission yesterday, has been extended until October 15. Invergordon shares rose 11p to 268p.

Utd Uniform tops £1.4m

UNITED Uniform Services, the American uniform manufacturer and supplier, is paying an interim dividend of 1p (nil) after unveiling a surge in pre-tax profits from £421,000 to £1.42 million in the six months to end-June. Turnover, boosted by acquisition, was £24.6 million (£24.07 million). Earnings slipped from 3.7p to 3.9p.

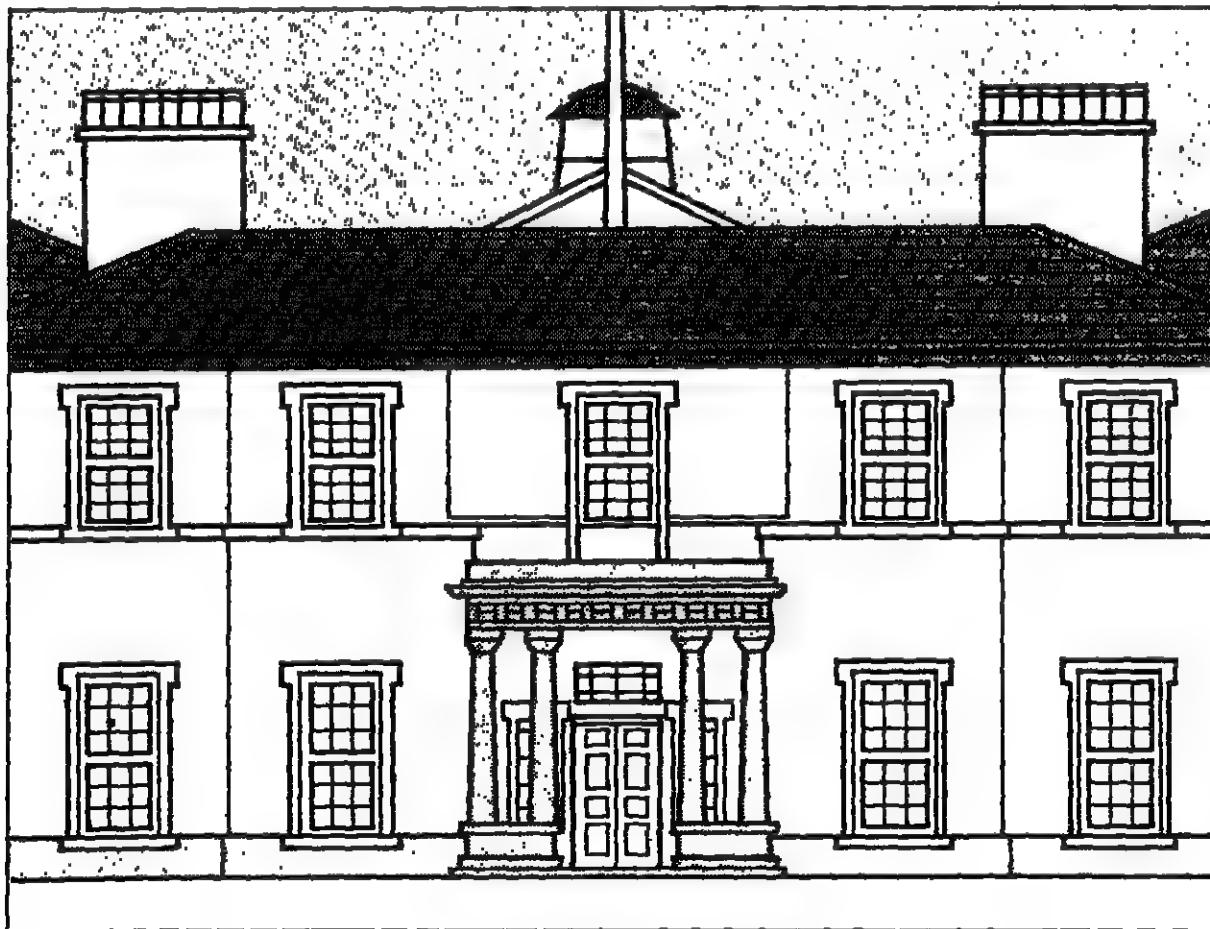
URS losses rise to \$2.7m

TAXABLE losses at URS International, the professional services group based in Virginia and quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, deepened from \$1.27 million to \$2.71 million in the year to end-December, 1990. Turnover fell to \$1.79 million (\$10.6 million). Once again, there is no dividend. The shares firmed 4p to 4p.

Mosaic in joint move

MOSAIC Investments, the fast-growing industrial products to licensing group, is expanding its licensing operations in Europe by setting up a joint venture in Germany.

Mosaic's Copyright Promotions, the character merchandising subsidiary, is teaming up with Merchandising München, which is part of the Kirch Group, to form the European Licensing Group, which will be based in Amsterdam and will be the largest independent licensing organisation in Europe.



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TT 08/10

Same old story from Eurotunnel

For any householder who has recently had the builders in, the phrase "a negative contractual attitude" will have an ominous ring. It crops up in the latest progress report from Eurotunnel, along with delays to the full operation of the shuttle service, and hence to break-even point and the first dividends. All this is clearly familiar to shareholders who can still see no end to rising costs that will diminish Eurotunnel's value if and when it opens in June 1993.

There remain enormous obstacles to successful and profitable operation. The builders, the TML consortium, are claiming £810 million for additional work and fees. This year's version of the traffic forecast is for revenues 2.3 per cent lower than had previously been estimated in 1993 due to the recession. Predictably, there may be more jam the day after tomorrow. Updated projections for later years put traffic 1.6 per cent higher than before by 2003 and 6.5 per cent up by 2013 thanks in part to the opening of eastern Europe.

Additional safety work on the

shuttles, which might have been predicted years ago, has cost both time and money to put right. Further costs of £446 million, including extra interest payments because the tunnel will take longer to break even, have pushed the total peak outlay on the scheme up 5.8 per cent to more than £8 billion. The maiden dividend is therefore deferred by 12 months, to the year 2000.

The builders' claims, evidence of their "negative attitude", are a negotiating stance. But Eurotunnel, having left itself a £1 billion margin for error at last year's rights issue, now has only £660 million leeway before reaching the £8.71 billion financing limit envisaged. Further cost overruns and any success the contractors achieve with their claims could bring that ceiling into the reckoning. Indeed, if costs continue to rise at the same pace, the ceiling would be breached before operations start. Fortunately, Eurotunnel has just

arranged a further £163 million from the European Coal and Steel Community.

The dirty work of basic tunnelling is done, but the high-tech mechanical and electrical work, which involves increasing numbers of contractors, is harder to control. On yesterday's snapshot, the various fitting out projects are between two and six months behind schedule. The contractors must make this up, as they did on tunnelling delays, if even a limited service is to start on time.

Eurotunnel shares, which traded at the equivalent of more than £10 in 1989, responded with a 28p fall to 496p. The share price tends to go up and down in waves as disputes and financing problems reach crisis point and are then resolved. Given the latest permanent diminution of the

project's value, as well as renewed uncertainties, short-term caution looks sensible.

Day's work

Sir Graham Day showed at British Aerospace's shareholder meeting just why he is in such demand as a safe pair of hands. He gave a dominating performance, having ensured that institutions did not attempt a rebellion against the rights issue that propelled him into the chair. If Sir Graham were the man to lead BAE permanently, shareholders might have gone away happier. But that is not to be, even if he devotes most of his energy to the group for up to a year.

Crisis management is one thing, long-term development of

the group is another. Last week's silly talk of break-up bids may have been quieted for the moment but long-term questions over BAE's management and finances remain. BAE is typical of groups put together in a hurry, and therefore typical of British industry, in lacking the depth and succession of management that keeps groups such as Unilever and Shell on an even keel. This will take a decade to remedy, during which BAE needs to recruit more top talent.

Sir Graham's claim that BAE will have enough money to push through its strategy is only part of the story. The group may be able to manage within tight finances, but will not be able, as in the past, to take opportunities arising from changing industrial structures in its main sectors, and may approach joint ventures from a position of relative weakness.

This, no doubt, where GEC would like to come in. Despite the flak directed at Lord

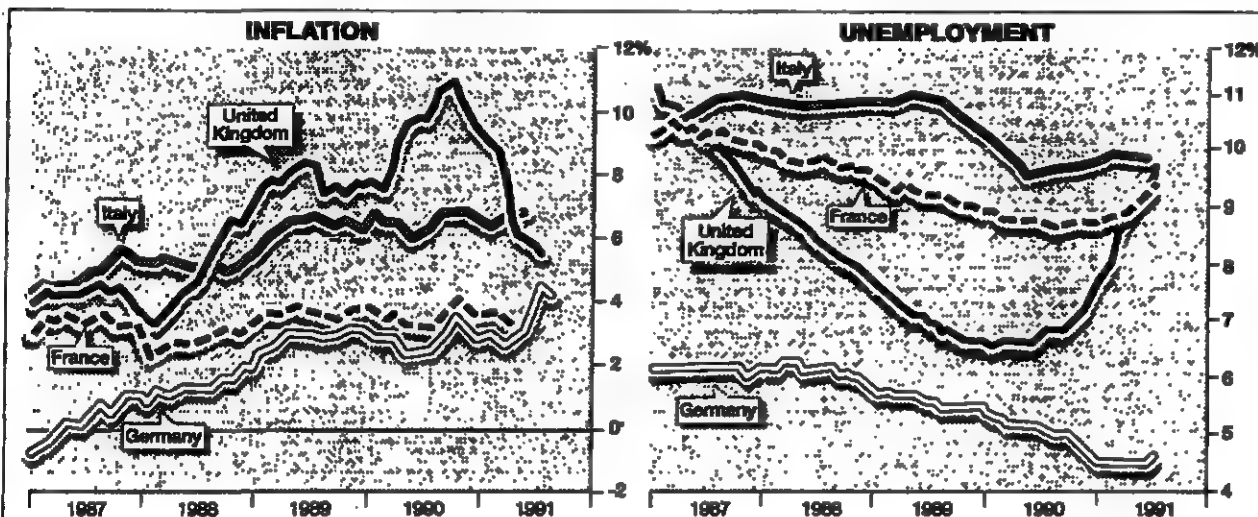
Weinstock, other potential partners may prove a good deal less friendly than they seem. Now that the rights issue has been approved, the nil-paid rights will be quoted from this morning. The City will be watching eagerly to see who, if anyone, buys them.

Act needed

Should any of the parties have room for a small promise in their electoral programmes, they might take up a suggestion from the address made by Alistair Neill yesterday as president of the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland. Law adapted from rules for private trusts is no longer adequate as a framework for pension funds vital to millions. Rights and responsibilities are unclear. The Imperial Tobacco case exposed the simple but unanswered question of who owns pension fund surpluses. The Scargill judgment appeared to rule out morality in investment. Mr Neill argues that a separate Pension Act is needed to resolve such pension fund issues. He is right.

Economists' jury is still out on impact of ERM membership

Britain's first year in Europe's exchange-rate mechanism has confounded optimists and pessimists alike. Anatole Kaletsky reports



FINANCIAL markets opened in a state of high excitement a year ago today, when Britain entered the European exchange-rate mechanism.

Most currency dealers were confident that sterling would shoot straight to the top of the ERM in its first days of membership. No less an authority than Professor Sir Alan Walters, Margaret Thatcher's economic Svengali, had repeatedly predicted the pound would rapidly hit its ERM ceiling, alongside the Spanish peseta, because of the stratospheric interest rates on offer in both currencies.

In line with this conventional wisdom, the main worry in the Treasury and the Bank of England as Britain plunged into the new world of semi-fixed exchange rates was that interest rates would have to be cut too quickly for the economy's good.

Needless to say, the economics profession was divided. A substantial minority predicted an opposite disaster. Sterling would fall to its floor of DM2.78, forcing the government either to raise interest rates even further or to beat a humiliating retreat and devalue the pound's central rate. The ERM experiment would turn into a fiasco like James Callaghan's membership of the European currency "snake".

In the event, the first year in the ERM has confounded pessimists and optimists alike. With hindsight, many of the realities of ERM membership were foreshadowed by the first day of foreign exchange trading. The pound never rose

anywhere near Sir Alan's theoretical ceiling of DM3.13; in fact it fell back below DM3 after just a few hours in Tokyo and was never again seen above that level.

The apparent failure of the "Walters effect" — as investors called the theory that high interest currencies automatically rise to the top of the ERM — nonplussed the market, disappointed traders and sent sterling reeling back towards its central rate of DM2.95. But then the pound stabilised. The first day's gyrations set the tone for the rest of

'The interest rate cut on February 13 was the turning point for Britain'

the year. Sterling remained under pressure, but the market never came anywhere near to challenging its lower limit of DM2.78.

For the Treasury, however, the pound's inability to rise above its central rate was a big embarrassment. So much so that Norman Lamont, in one of his first speeches as Chancellor, made the mistake of seeming to rule out a cut in interest rates as long as the pound remained below DM2.95.

As any trader knows, a finance minister's worst mistake is to offer speculators such neat targets. After the Chancellor's statement, ster-

ling remained well below its central rate as speculators reasoned that any rise above DM2.95 would bring an immediate cut in interest rates.

This cat and mouse game continued for four months, until February 13, when Mr Lamont finally plucked up courage and cut base rates by half a point to 13½ per cent, despite the fact that sterling was well below its central parity, at DM2.8950.

By pure coincidence, the first interest-rate cut of the ERM era came within hours of *The Times* publishing a letter from Sir Alan and five other Thatcherite economists, which warned of the possibility of a 1930s-style depression if interest rates were not immediately cut. To make matters worse, the timing of Mr Lamont's decision made British policy appear to be following a lead not only from the Bundesbank, but from the Bank of Spain.

But for all its embarrassing political connotations, the interest rate cut on February 13 was the turning point in Britain's first year in the ERM. Instead of falling, sterling rose marginally against the mark, partly because the mark itself was suddenly losing favour in comparison with a grossly undervalued American dollar in the wake of the Gulf war.

Having survived their first tussle with the currency markets, officials in the Treasury and the Bank of England rediscovered their confidence. The way was clear for the series of six further half-point cuts that brought British in-

terest rates down to 10½ per cent last month.

While these reductions came too late to save the country from the second deepest and longest recession since the second world war, they are paving the way for a gradual economic convalescence.

Thus, the question worth asking now is not whether ERM membership prolonged the recession — which it almost certainly did by delaying interest-rate cuts for the critical four months between last October and February — but whether it will promote

'The question is whether ERM membership will promote recovery in the long term'

recovery and better economic performance in the long term.

If ERM membership turns out to be the foundation for adequate growth with low inflation, as all three political parties and most of the business community believe, then the hardships of an extra few months of recession will have been worth enduring. But unfortunately, there is no evidence from experience for the widespread view that ERM membership will assure Britain of low inflation or German-style prosperity.

The charts tell the story. Since 1987, when the ERM was transformed from a sys-

tem of managed currency floating into one of rigidly fixed exchange rates, its performance has been unimpressive on inflation and unemployment.

The much-vaunted convergence of inflation rates between Germany and the other core ERM countries has been due entirely to higher inflation in Germany, rather than lower inflation in France — and Germany's inflation began to accelerate well before the recent unification surge.

Inflation in Italy, the only other ERM country comparable to Britain in size and economic structure, has not benefited at all from ERM membership. Its inflation has remained almost unchanged between 5½ and 6½ per cent for the past four years. And the latest IMF forecasts for Italy show no further progress — inflation there will still be 5.8 per cent at the end of 1992, compared with 2.9 per cent in both Germany and France.

Ironically, it is in terms of unemployment that the evidence for ERM-induced convergence appears to be greater. Italy and France have both learned to accept unemployment rates of 9 to 10 per cent as a permanent fact of life. According to most forecasts, that is where British unemployment will settle in the years ahead after rising even higher in 1992.

As economists who rebelled against the pre-war gold standard were well aware, high unemployment is the clearest symptom, and the most important cost, of an overvalued exchange rate.

year. Lovegrove says: "The service became a lot more glossy after Capel took over, but stagnated over the last year or so." Andersen was up against several bidders. Those on the move include James Searies, Tim Shingler and Juliet Overend.

Horse play

NEARLY 1,000 City souls flocked to Dunsfold Race in Surrey this weekend for the third annual Horseless Horse Trials. They gathered on the 150 acre country estate of Richard Pollen, the former Capel Care Myers dealer who branched into City PR and now runs his own investor relations company. The horses tackled a four-and-a-half mile course that ended with them leaping over 20 fences in a horseless re-run of the Grand National. Teams included the Fimbra Fillies, the Nationwide Nags and the Dark Horses from Lloyd's. Last year the event raised more than £65,000 for Men-cap and the organisers hope to repeat the success.

JON ASHWORTH

Journalist's journeys

A YEAR after disappearing from the London scene, Desmond Quigley, financial journalist turned City PR man, has found a way of combining his talents. He is the newly appointed editor of *PR Week*, a journal for which he has considerable plans. "It will become much more heavyweight," says Quigley, who has worked for *The Times*, the *Financial Times* and *Financial Weekly*, and was a senior figure at Dewe Rogerson, the City PR firm, until he left last October. Notable City contacts include Professor Sir Roland Smith, whom he advised during Tiny Rowland's tussles with House of Fraser in the early Eighties. He has spent the past 12 months jetting between America, Britain and France.

Racy image

FORGET the Porsche. The new status symbol for the fashion-conscious City gent will surely be the Nineties

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

version of the Ford GT 40, which in its original form won the 24-hour Le Mans race a record four times in the Sixties. GT Developments of Poole, Dorset, which still



"As if builders don't have enough problems."

makes the original version in kit form for a mere £27,000, is now seeking financial backing for an updated design. With a five-litre capacity and capable of 200 mph, it will cost £240,000. The price pales into insignificance, however, when compared with the £8 million paid earlier this year for the GT 40 that won Le Mans in 1968 and 1969.

WHAT does Ian Hay Davison, chairman of Storehouse, have in common with Elizabeth Taylor? They both shop at Habitat. Miss Taylor recently bought a double bed from Habitat in Beverly Hills, which is part of the Storehouse group. Davison was in LA last week to open a new Habitat store. He did not stay for the wedding.

Cheque check

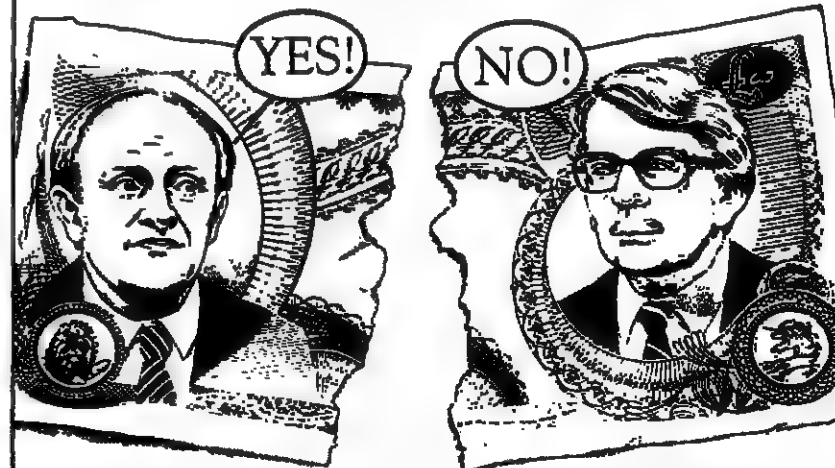
THERE was a gasp of surprise in the offices of Datalogic Ltd,

the computer software subsidiary of Raytheon, yesterday morning when they saw a picture in *The Times* of a forged Nigerian cheque, apparently made out to them. Happily though, we are able to confirm that Datalogic Ltd has no connection with the recipient of the cheque, and that when the former company received a letter from the Nigerian fraudsters last summer, it sent it straight to Scotland Yard.

Oil team moves

ONE of the City's most respected oil and gas teams has moved again. Arthur Andersen, the accountant, has bought James Capel's petroleum services team. Capel took over the team from ML Petroleum Services in 1983. ML was set up by Martin Lovegrove, who left Capel for Kleinwort Benson in June last

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MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 90.7 (day's range 90.7-90.8).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Unit Rates for Oct 7	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.9285-3.2902	3.9285-3.2902	94-98	94-98
Brussels	56.85-60.40	56.85-60.40	10-10P	10-10P
Copenhagen	11.2118-11.2288	11.2118-11.2288	94-98	94-98
Dublin	2.0110-2.0190	2.0110-2.0190	94-98	94-98
Frankfurt	2.0110-2.0190	2.0110-2.0190	94-98	94-98
Geneva	2.0110-2.0190	2.0110-2.0190	94-98	94-98
Madrid	187.75-185.01	187.75-185.01	94-98	94-98
Milan	2174.93-2182.90	2174.93-2182.90	94-98	94-98
Paris	1.6259-1.6277	1.6259-1.6277	94-98	94-98
New York	1.7345-1.7300	1.7345-1.7300	94-98	94-98
Oso	11.3788-11.4169	11.3788-11.4169	94-98	94-98
Stockholm	9.0219-9.0459	9.0219-9.0459	94-98	94-98
Stockholm	10.6047-10.6049	10.6047-10.6049	94-98	94-98
Tokyo	224.30-225.57	224.30-225.57	94-98	94-98
Zurich	2.0250-2.0163	2.0250-2.0163	94-98	94-98
Zurich	2.5500-2.5528	2.5500-2.5528	94-98	94-98
Source: Bial			Premium = pr.	Discount = ds.

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rate: Clearing Rate 10% Finance H 11
Discount Market Office: Overnight High 9% Low 8
Treasury Bills (Oct-Sep): 2 mth 9 1/4%; 3 mth 9%; 6 mth 8 1/4%; 12 mth 7 1/4%

	1 month	2 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Prime Bank Bills (10%)	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%
Short-Term Money Rates	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%
Interbank:	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%
Forward rates 10% open, close	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Local Authority Rates	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Sterling Bills:	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%
Dollar Offer:	5.25-5.18	5.25-5.18	5.25-5.18	5.25-5.18	5.25-5.18
Building Society Bills:	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%	10%-10 1/4%

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

	7 day	1 month	3 month	6 month	Call
Dollar:	5 1/4-5	5 1/4-5	5 1/4-5	5 1/4-5	5 1/4-5
Deutschmark:	5 1/4-5	5 1/4-5	5 1/4-5	5 1/4-5	5 1/4-5
Swiss Franc:	5 1/4-5	5 1/4-5	5 1/4-5	5 1/4-5	5 1/4-5
Yen:	5 1/4-5	5 1/4-5	5 1/4-5	5 1/4-5	5 1/4-5
Source: Bial					

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Bart & Co)

Bullion Open \$358.90-359.40 Close: \$359.50-360.00 High: \$359.50-360.00
Low: \$358.10-359.50 Krugers: \$359.25-360.25 (2207-208.00)

Sovereigns: Gold \$84.25-85.25 (P&S 50.00) Silver \$84.00-85.00 (P&S 25-49.25)

OTHER STERLING RATES DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Argentina pesos*	17181.4-17208.7	Australia	1.9860-1.9578
Australia dollar	2.1802-2.1941	Bahamas	94.50-94.82
Bahian dollar	0.061-0.069	Bahian dollar	11.55-11.58
Brazil cruzeiro	175.00-175.00	Brazil cruzeiro	1.1288-1.1304
Cypriot pound	0.0055-0.0135	Denmark	4.6720-4.6720
Finland mark	7.0775-7.1735	France	7.1510-7.2770
French franc	17.574-17.574	Germany	1.7450-1.7450
Hong Kong dollar	13.4477-13.4573	Hong Kong	7.7454-7.7474
Indian rupee	44.55-44.92	India	1.9900-1.9915
Japanese yen	0.0055-0.0055	Japan	1.9900-1.9915
Malaysia ringgit	4.7699-4.7695	Malaysia	1.9900-1.9915
Mexico peso	0.0489-0.0489	Mexico	2.7418-2.7428
Netherlands dollar	0.4675-0.4635	Netherlands	0.5890-0.5890
Saudi Arabia riyal	2.0000-2.0000	Saudi Arabia	1.4350-1.4420
South Africa rand	6.3899-6.4578	Singapore	1.9895-1.9895
S Africa rand (rand)	4.8742-4.8823	Switzerland	1.0000-1.0018
S Africa rand (rand)	6.544-6.544	Switzerland	1.4701-1.4711
Switzerland franc	78.77-78.77	Switzerland	1.4701-1.4711

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Swap Scheme. Make-up day: Sept 30, 1991. Agreed rates: Oct 28, 1

COMMODITIES

LONDON OIL REPORTS (GHS-LOR) - London 6.00pm: Following a shaky start to the week, American buying interest took levels higher.												
CRUDE OIL (\$/barrel FOB)												
Brent Physical	21.26	+0.10	Brent 15 day (Nov)	21.65	+0.10	WTexas Intermediate (Nov)	22.65	+0.15	WTexas Intermediate (Dec)	22.70	+0.25	
PRODUCTS (pence/ton) (SMT) Spot CIF Europe (brent delivery)												
Premium Gas -15	Bkt 232 (-2)	Offcr: 235 (-2)	Gascol EEC	211 (n)	213 (n)	Non S&P 1st Oct	212 (+3)	214 (+3)	Non S&P 1st Nov	213 (+3)	215 (+3)	
3.5 Fuel Oil	75 (n)	77 (n)	Naphtha	215 (-2)	220 (n)	INE FUTURES						
GAS OIL												
Oct	209.25-08.75	Feb	204.25-08.00	Nov	211.00-10.75	Mar	195.50-08.00	Dec	211.00-10.75	Apr	199.50-08.00	
Oct	211.75-11.50	Apr	208.75-09.50	Nov	215.25-11.50	Apr	208.75-09.50	WHEAT				
WHEAT												
Oct	21.50-22.00	Dec	21.35-21.45	Nov	21.00-21.70	Dec	21.35-21.45	LONDON POTATO FUTURES				
LONDON POTATO FUTURES												
Mar (R/none)	Open: unc	Close: 128.4	Oct	127.5	Nov	127.5	Dec	127.5	Jan	127.5	Feb	127.5
Mar (R/none)	Open: unc	Close: 142.5	Oct	142.5	Nov	142.5	Dec	142.5	Jan	142.5	Feb	142.5
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION												
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on October												
(Fig in lb)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct
GB	73.35	111.57	102.35	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct
(+/-)	-2.12	-0.52	-1.29	Nov	Nov	Nov	Nov	Nov	Nov	Nov	Nov	Nov
(+/-)	-2.11	-0.52	-1.29	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec
(+/-)	-2.21	-1.16	-1.88	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan
(+/-)	-13.3	-29.2	-36.5	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb
(+/-)	72.5	108.5	107.30	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar
(+/-)	-71.3	-73.0	-62.0	Apr	Apr	Apr	Apr	Apr	Apr	Apr	Apr	Apr
* Estimated dead carcass weight												
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE												
(Official) (Volume Prev day)	1351.0-1352.0	3mth: 1344.0-1344.5	6mth: 1344.0-1344.5	9mth: 1344.0-1344.5	12mth: 1344.0-1344.5	15mth: 1344.0-1344.5	18mth: 1344.0-1344.5	21mth: 1344.0-1344.5	24mth: 1344.0-1344.5			
Copper Gds A (R/none)	307.25-307.50	318.50-317.00	318.50-317.00	318.50-317.00	318.50-317.00	318.50-317.00	318.50-317.00	318.50-317.00	318.50-317.00			
Lead (R/none)	924.50-925.00	924.50-925.00	924.50-925.00	924.50-925.00	924.50-925.00	924.50-925.00	924.50-925.00	924.50-925.00	924.50-925.00			
Zinc Gds H Gds (R/none)	5530.0-5535.0	5500.0-5501.0	5500.0-5501.0	5500.0-5501.0	5500.0-5501.0	5500.0-5501.0	5500.0-5501.0	5500.0-5501.0	5500.0-5501.0			
Tin (R/none)	1107.0-1108.0	1126.0-1127.0	1126.0-1127.0	1126.0-1127.0	1126.0-1127.0	1126.0-1127.0	1126.0-1127.0	1126.0-1127.0	1126.0-1127.0			
Aluminium H Gds (R/none)	7450.0-7460.0	7450.0-7460.0	7450.0-7460.0	7450.0-7460.0	7450.0-7460.0	7450.0-7460.0	7450.0-7460.0	7450.0-7460.0	7450.0-7460.0			
Nickel (R/none)	7450.0-7460.0	7450.0-7460.0	7450.0-7460.0	7450.0-7460.0	7450.0-7460.0	7450.0-7460.0	7450.0-7460.0	7450.0-7460.0	7450.0-7460.0			

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Frances Gibb explains the effects of the Children Act on youngsters and their parents and Paula Davies looks at how the courts will be reorganised

One giant step for Britain's children

The most important and far-reaching reform of the law on children comes into force next week. The Children Act 1989 was born of the Cleveland affair, when the local authority obtained 276 place of safety orders in seven months and removed children from their parents. However, it does far more than tackle the problems of how the law should protect children at risk without breaking up families. The act brings together for the first time all children's law, from care proceedings to what happens in a divorce.

Not only does the act radically overhaul the law itself, replacing such familiar divorce concepts as custody and access with new notions such as "parental responsibility", but it also introduces an embryo family court, with specially trained and selected judges, in designated court centres applying new uniform procedures. Every level of court and judge will use the same law, and cases may be switched up or down among the three tiers - magistrates' court, county court and High Court - so that they can be matched according to complexity with the right tribunal.

The act, for which there has been two years' preparation and an unprecedented training programme for judges and magistrates, also marks a fundamental shift in thinking away from the traditional adversarial legal system. The new emphasis is away from orders imposing solutions on parents, and towards parents, relatives and local authorities working in partnership to find the best arrangement for a child: consensus, not conflict.

In future, courts will make an order for a child only if this would be better than making no order at all. Among the principles guiding courts are that the child's welfare is paramount, and that, where possible, children should be brought up and cared for within their own families.

Valerie Kleanthous, of the Solicitors' Family Law Association, says: "The act encourages everyone involved in decision-making for children to see things from the child's point of view. That does not

just mean letting the child make decisions, where appropriate, on its future but focusing on the child as an individual and ascertaining the child's wishes."

To ensure that the child's voice is heard, courts will be specifically required to consider a child's wishes and feelings, and children will have to be represented in any care proceedings by a guardian *ad litem* and usually also by a solicitor.

Parents, too, have enhanced status. In the wake of Cleveland, then Rochdale and the Orkneys, parents have felt powerless against social workers' actions. The act removes the power that local authorities had to take a child compulsorily into care through wardship proceedings and it abolishes the 28-day place of safety order.

Instead, there will be an eight-day emergency protection order subject to court review if challenged by parents or other interested parties. There is also a new child assessment order, enabling a child to be assessed in the family home when it is suffering harm but is not at immediate risk. The act should mean fewer court orders, whether in the public law area (child protection) or private law (disputes between parents).

Peggy Ray, a solicitor with Goodman Ray, says: "I would have hoped that a lot more cases that start as applications for care will be resolved without care orders being made. And with the act's flexibility, such orders as are made can be more finely tuned to the circumstances of a case."

Parents have a new statutory right to have contact with a child in care, unless this would put the child's welfare at risk, and the right to attend or be represented at any proceedings involving their child. Local authorities, for their part, have more specific duties to provide back-up services for children in need



Stepping stones: the new law will protect children throughout their young lives

living with their own families and in that way to reduce the need to go to court, although there is concern over whether they are adequately funded to provide these services. The act also recognises the interest of grandparents and other close relatives in the future of a child, and they will be able to apply to be parties to proceedings. Yet it is in the area of so-called private law, disputes between divorcing parents, that the act may have a more revolutionary impact. A linchpin of the act is the notion of parental responsibility, the idea that if parents

separate, they retain responsibility for a child. This applies even if a child is looked after by a local authority, and unmarried fathers may obtain parental responsibility by agreement with the mother, or by court order.

Mr Justice Johnson, the High Court judge in charge of the judges' special training programme, says: "On the private law side, the most striking change is the change to the judicial system, the structure."

Under the act, all child protection cases will start before magistrates and be referred up if necessary to a higher tribunal. "However on

the private law side it is the changes to the law itself that are most striking," Mr Justice Johnson says. "In every divorce case where there have been children, the court gives custody or care and control to one parent and excludes the other, who is relegated to being allowed to visit and send cards and presents."

Instead of custody and control and access, there is now a menu of new orders: residence, contact, prohibited steps and specific issues orders. The nearest to care and control is the new residence order, stating with whom the child is to live. The difference is that both parents retain responsibility, and where they are in agreement, the court will make no order at all.

"That is in complete contrast to what we have now, where in almost every case, where the parents are agreed or not, their agreement is enshrined in a court order," Mr Justice Johnson says.

Grandparents, who until now have had only limited rights in divorce proceedings, will be able to apply to a court to maintain contact with the child or even ask that the child live with them.

Another benefit of the act is that, whereas the laws on child protection and divorce have previously been separate, courts can now deal with all issues together and mix and match from the new orders. For instance, they can combine a residence order so that a child lives with an aunt with a

supervision order to ensure that the local authority monitors her welfare.

"It is foolish to believe that Parliament, by this act, can change human nature straight away," Mr Justice Johnson says. "I believe it will encourage divorcing parents to recognise they both have parental responsibility. The fact that parents have separate residence should not deprive the child of the right to have decisions made about its future by both parents."

It is not a question of fathers being better off under the new law, he adds. "I would like to put it that children will be better off because in the past the law has said to one parent, 'You are in charge to the exclusion of the other', and that seems to be the very opposite of what the law should be doing."

Daunting task for juvenile court JPs

WHEN the Children Act comes into force on October 14, I shall find myself a chairman of a Family Proceedings Court. As I have been a juvenile justice for 15 years, the prospect of dealing with domestic issues as well as public law in relation to children is daunting enough. The knowledge and skills I am expected to have seem more suited to a paid professional.

Along with domestic court justices who will share the work, we juvenile court magistrates have undergone hours of training to prepare for what seems to me a much more onerous task than any volunteer justice ever bargained for.

The main principle behind the act - that the welfare of the child is paramount - is simple enough for those of us who have been guided by this principle for years.

The practicalities are more complicated. Lay magistrates have never had the full

cases often collapse at the last minute, we are going to have directions hearings. These are intended to narrow the issues in contention, to prepare documents and to serve evidence on all parties. Thus, in theory, at the hearing, only contested parts need be heard. We are expected, with all the lawyers and guardians *ad litem*, to have read all the history and uncontested sides of the case in advance.

All this earlier work is intended to speed up proceedings because delay is regarded, quite rightly, as prejudicing the child's welfare. Cases will also be transferable between courts as the law will be the same in the three levels of magistrates' court, county court and High Court. In general, cases will start in the Family Court but can be moved to another court to consolidate proceedings elsewhere, to avoid delay or because they are particularly grave or complicated. The theory of the act, which is aimed at providing a single and consistent statement of the law on the care, upbringing and protection of children, is exemplary. How it will work is quite another matter. Given that the mother will retain parental responsibility even if the child is taken into care, given that an unmarried father can now acquire parental responsibility, given that the local authority will have a duty to avoid the necessity of care proceedings but also a duty to provide for children in need, time-consuming complications seem inevitable. The number of representatives of interested parties, already high, seems likely to grow. Even under the current law some care cases are taking five days or more. How many lay magistrates will be able to find the time? I have been asked to sit for four consecutive days with a stipendiary to help to clear a backlog. As I am self-employed, I have been able to do so but I cannot give up so much of my time very often. Others cannot do it at all.

I have to ask myself whether lay magistrates will find themselves pushed to the sidelines by having to become quasi-lawyers. Shall we have to give up our voluntary commitment under ever increasing pressure? Will this pave the way towards a paid magistracy? Meanwhile, we shall endeavour to shoulder our part of the burden of new legislation while praying that overworked clerks, court staff and social workers will not collapse under theirs.

● The author is a chairman of an inner London juvenile court.



BRIEF

PAULA DAVIES

'Everyone is encouraged to see things from the child's point of view'

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Advising on all aspects of international securities and capital markets products embracing swaps, commercial paper programmes, eurobonds, debt offerings, securitisations and derivatives, the firm now wishes to position itself for further major growth in this area.

A lawyer is now sought with substantial relevant experience, preferably gained in an investment bank. This is an exceptional opportunity for someone to take a leading role in the further development of this strategically important area of the firm's practice.

The successful candidate will be offered a substantial remuneration package with a view to an early partnership.

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Wizards of Oz

DAVID Miles has been in London talking to law firms in his role as the president of the Law Council of Australia, a combined professional body for solicitors and barristers. Mr Miles is the chief executive of one of Australia's leading law firms, Corrs Chambers Westgarth, which opened a London office three years ago to provide expertise to the firm's Australian clients.

Mr Miles says: "Major firms in Australia are looking more and more towards London and Europe as part of the globalisation of legal services, and we have to keep pace with it."

The 132-partner firm is already setting the pace in technological development. It has its own video conferencing network, via a live 24-hour satellite link, so that clients and lawyers can communicate with partners in the firm's other offices. The offices are also linked by electronic mail. "In terms of technology I would think we are ahead of what is being done here in London," Mr Miles says.

Speakers' corner

BARRISTERS' chambers are finding still more ways to promote themselves. Last week, Doughty Street Chambers held its Doughty Street lecture, given by Professor Nadine Strossen, the recently elected president of the American Civil Liberties Union. At 40, she is the youngest holder of the post to date. She spoke on the US Bill of Rights, a timely topic in view of the many proposals for a written constitution in Britain.

Another chambers, 2 Hare Court, has linked up with the

INNS AND OUTS

Will a woman carry on Sir Allan's fight?

SIR Allan Green's abrupt resignation as the Director of Public Prosecutions is a huge blow for Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) lawyers hoping to win the right to take cases in the crown court.

Sir Allan has been a tough and outspoken champion of such rights for CPS lawyers and could be relied on to fight his corner hard against the Bar now that the issue is being decided by the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee under Lord Griffiths.

The appointment of his successor is crucial to whether employed lawyers such as those in the CPS will gain crown court rights. This depends on whether he or she toes the Bar's line or presses for reforms.

The most widely tipped

conference organisers, Legal Studies and Services, to host a one-day seminar on judicial review, the relatively new area of law in which people challenge the decisions of public bodies. Lord Justice Woolf heads a list of well known speakers at the Waldorf, central London, on November 18.

Client carping

MARKETING partners in law firms would have been forgiven a sigh as they flicked through *New Approaches to Client Development*, the recent report by the consultant



Barbara Mills, QC

candidate is Barbara Mills, QC, the head of the Serious Fraud Office. She may hail from the Bar, but observers believe she will certainly not toe its party line.

Competitive Marketing. Invited to comment on lawyers' promotional efforts, clients come back with the usual complaints. Whatever they do, it seems lawyers cannot get it right.

"The brochures are pretty sterile. They only distinguish themselves by their poor quality," one critic said. Another said: "They all make the same mistake - pictures, partners and libraries. Solicitors have been induced into believing that it is useless."

Among the most dispiriting of all, however, was the com-

ment: "I would not like to be touted for business." Even that was capped by the deadly "If they ever came to us, we would back away, thinking, 'There is a man who is in need of something to do'."

So has all that money on marketing been wasted? Certainly not. It has kept public relations and marketing agencies in business throughout the session.

New Approaches to Client Development is available from Paddy Gormley at Competitive Marketing on 081-853 5979.

Sea battles

DELEGATES to the inaugural conference of the newly formed European Maritime Law Organisation, being held in London on October 25, 26, can expect lively exchanges between European Commission officials and their "customers". The organiser, Philip Rutley, a partner at the London law firm Holman Fenwick & Willan, has arranged for speakers to be questioned by experts in their field.

For more information about the conference, contact Mr Rutley on 071-488 2300.

Front runners

EVIDENCE that you need to run fast to stay at the top comes from Linklaters & Paines, where the marathon runner James Wyness, the retiring managing partner and now joint senior partner, has just been succeeded by Christopher Gorman, who is also a devotee of long-distance running. "They both successfully completed the London Marathon this year, coming in neck and neck," says Katie Arber, the firm's spokeswoman.

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Our Client now wishes to invest yet further in its corporate practice and seeks an additional corporate partner to take a prominent role in the future development of the department. A partner elsewhere, the successful candidate will have substantial relevant City experience coupled with an effective personality and proven technical ability.

The equity partnership package offered will be considerable, reflecting our Client's profitability and the importance attached to this appointment.

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INSOLVENCY/ CORPORATE RESCUE £50,000 - £100,000 or above

Our high profile Client is proud of its reputation as a pedestal medium-sized commercial firm. Its unique entrepreneurial ethos has created an international practice well placed to capitalise on the demands for global legal services. Already highly active in the insolvency arena, the firm's commitment to this sphere extends beyond the current recession - it is determined to become pre-eminent.

The firm's innovative and thriving cross-departmental Insolvency Unit now seeks an ambitious insolvency lawyer to add further in depth technical expertise in all insolvency-related matters. Instructions from major firms of accountants, national and international banks, liquidators, receivers and administrators embrace high profile corporate rescues and concomitant re-organisations and restructurings.

The successful candidate, ideally with between 3-6 years' relevant experience, will be of obvious partnership calibre (or already a partner), robust, entrepreneurial and armed with natural marketing skills which will amply justify an extremely attractive package.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact **Gareth Quarry** on 071-405 6062 (071-228 5345 evenings/weekends) or write to him at **Quarry Dougall Recruitment**, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



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Our Client, a major international law firm, seeks two further ambitious banking and finance lawyers to join its Hong Kong practice.

The challenging and stimulating workload will include banking and finance transactions, embracing syndicated and other loan arrangements, asset-based financing and off-balance sheet and lease transactions for a diverse range of clients including banks, financial institutions and major corporations.

The successful candidates, who will ideally have between 1 and 4 years' relevant post qualification experience, will be offered exposure to challenging, high calibre work. They will enjoy early responsibility and extremely competitive salary and benefits packages.

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Remuneration package not less than £50,000 p.a. (Tax Free)

Our client, a major Oil Company in Kuwait, has a vacancy for the position of Senior Legal Adviser, working as part of a small team of lawyers headed by the Company's General Counsel. The position concerned carries with it the opportunity of participating in the rehabilitation of Kuwait's oil industry.

The successful applicant will be expected to advise senior management on the wide range of matters which one would expect to encounter in a major company. In particular, expertise in the drafting and negotiation of commercial contracts will be essential.

Applicants should be Barristers or Solicitors currently practising in the commercial law field, preferably in the oil industry and having substantial experience of major construction projects. The work environment is demanding and complex. Candidates should therefore be resourceful, commercially aware and capable of effective presentation. Ideally they should be under 45. The successful applicant will be expected to commit for a term of not less than two years.

Conditions offered by the Company are excellent. The total remuneration package attached to this appointment will be not less than £50,000 per annum at current exchange rates. Presently it would not be subject to Kuwaiti tax and would be freely transferable. In addition there would be a generous package of other benefits.

Our client wishes to remain confidential at this stage. Would you therefore please initially send your detailed CV quoting ref no. 2369 to Robert Patis, Publicity Management Recruitment Ltd, 39-41 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8PP.

Please list separately any companies to which you do not wish your response to be forwarded.

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The package on offer is to £25,000 plus substantial assistance with accommodation. The tax rates on the Isle of Man are very favourable at 15% and 20% (top rate) resulting in a larger disposable income, and there are other tax advantages.

TELEPHONE VICKI RAWLINSON ON 0624 814755

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Progressive medium sized City practice. Young, dynamic litigation department. Seeks bright, confident solicitor 1/2 years' PQE to specialise in insurance/re-insurance work. Excellent training.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION to £33,000
Highly respected medium sized City practice. Strong litigation department. Requires solicitor c. 2 years' PQE to handle broadest range of general commercial litigation. Strong academic background.

PRIVATE CLIENT to £38,000
Quality medium sized City practice. Highly respected for private client work. Seeks bright solicitor 1-3 years' PQE. Wide range of work including complex trust and tax planning matters.

PENSIONS to £45,000
Well known City firm. Expanding pensions department. Seeks ambitious, bright solicitor 2-4 years' PQE. Complex and technically challenging work. Continuous client contact. Excellent prospects.

BANKING & FINANCE to £50,000
Top quality medium sized City firm. Banking group continues to thrive. Seeks additional solicitor. 2-4 years' PQE from recognised practice. Must be bright, confident and a team-player.

F.S.A. to £43,000
Well respected medium sized City firm. Top quality client base. Seeks specialist to handle broadest range of work including IMRO, LAUTRO and SFA matters. Small, busy and expanding team.

CORPORATE TAX to £48,000
Premier City practice. Excellent reputation in tax field. Seeks solicitor/barrister 2/3 years' PQE for broadest range of heavyweight corporate tax consultancy matters. Training and prospects first class.

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Progressive, medium sized Holborn practice. Small, busy company department. Seeks additional partner. Must be from recognised practice. Contacts would be expected. Immediate partnership.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY Partner Level
Quality medium sized Central London firm. Seeks additional IP partner for non-contentious IP and general commercial matters. Must have significant following. Excellent work environment.

PLANNING/ENVIRONMENTAL to £35,000
Large, successful City practice. Expanding planning and environmental team. Assistant sought ideally with 1-2 years' relevant experience. High profile matters of a varied and challenging nature.

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Premier City practice with blue-chip international client base. Seeks assistant for Hong Kong office. Ideally with 2-4 years' high profile banking experience. Strong academic background pre-requisite.

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Premier international law practice. Expanding banking and finance group. Seeks bright, young, ambitious solicitor/barrister with 2-3 years' PQE in capital markets work. Some overseas travel.

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Entries are invited for The Times Law Awards 1991

Help protect the world and share £6,000

As the danger of nuclear holocaust fades, the biggest challenge facing mankind has become the protection of the environment. What can the law do to help? That is the question at the core of the fourth annual Times Law Awards, sponsored by Freshfields, the city law firm, which are announced today.

The winner will receive £3,000, plus the option of a two-week placement at Freshfields. Second prize will be £2,000, and third £1,000. There will be three prizes for runners-up of £100 each. The awards will be made at a dinner at Freshfields office in January. The winning entry will be published in *The Times*.

Students and those training for a legal career are invited to submit an article of not more than 1,000 words, by November 30, on the topic: "The future of the environment: will legislation or self-regulation protect it best?"

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, will chair the judging panel of Simon Jenkins, editor of *The Times*, Jonathan Porritt, the environmental campaigner, and John Grieve, senior partner at Freshfields.

Robert Lewis, a partner at Freshfields and the head of its environment group, says: "The scale of the problem is clear. If you ask any major business what will affect it most in the 1990s, it will reply: 'The environment'."

Environmental law has become one of the biggest areas of legal practice on both sides of the Atlantic. The business world needs to ensure that it complies with a sophisticated range of controls. Mr Lewis says: "The danger with legislation is that all it does is ensure minimal compliance. What we must continue to do is encourage people to see that it is in their own self-interest not to harm the environment."

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, will chair the judging panel

Already the challenge of cutting out environmentally damaging activities has stimulated some ingenious solutions. In the United States, the development of "tradeable permits" — where companies are allocated limited "rights to pollute" which may be sold in the market — is lowering pollution levels.

In Britain, cutting taxes on lead-free petrol was one of the most effective ways ever devised of reducing pollution, and is viewed as more effective than "command and

control" legislation. Similarly, pressure from consumers is encouraging leading retailers to go for ecologically sound products.

The impending launch of the European Community's "eco-labelling" system is another example of how public opinion can influence the operations of big organisations and multi-national companies. Being eco-friendly does, however, have a price in the short term. That is why legislation cannot be ruled out.

Mr Lewis comments: "It would be naive to assume that you do not need to use the stick as well as the carrot to achieve your objectives. Left to themselves, a lot of people will think short-term and in their own narrow interests. In any case, action to protect the

environment in some areas can have damaging side-effects elsewhere. The energy cost of recycling, for example, may outweigh the gains made in terms of conservation. The question of whether or not governments should use legislation to set environmental priorities is debatable. It is the level of public concern, however, that creates a climate for legislation.

Where to draw the line between controlling society and encouraging it in the right direction is increasingly going to exercise politicians and lawyers. Given that developing countries are suspicious of any attempt to restrain their growth, the problem is more complex than it may appear at first sight.

EDWARD FENNELL
For further information, contact
Georgina Stewart on 071-832 7546.



THE RULES

STUDENTS in any discipline and anybody training for a legal career are invited to take part in The Times Law Awards 1991 competition, sponsored by Freshfields.

To enter, write an article of no more than 1,000 words on "The future of the environment: will legislation or self-regulation protect it best?"

The closing date for receipt of articles is November 30, 1991. The prizes will be presented at an awards dinner next January.

PRIZES: First prize £3,000, second £2,000, third £1,000 plus three runner-up prizes of £100 each. The winner will also be offered a two-week placement with Freshfields and their entry published in *The Times*.

JUDGES: The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Simon Jenkins, editor of *The Times*, Jonathan Porritt, the leading environmentalist and John Grieve, senior partner, Freshfields.

RULES: 1. The competition is open to all students and anybody who is training for a legal career, except students of Freshfields, *The Times* and *Financial Times*. The prize will be awarded to the author of the best article.

2. The article must be the sole creation and original work of the author. Articles will not be eligible if they copy or borrow ideas or text from other sources.

3. The author must be a resident of the United Kingdom, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. The author must be aged 18 or over.

4. Entries must be no more than 1,000 words, well-organized, and clearly written or typed with double spacing, and of general interest. The top three should carry the author's name, address and home and day-time telephone numbers. If you are a student, give the name of your university and faculty.

5. In the event of any dispute, the decision of the judges will be final. Entries should be sent to: The Times Law Awards, Freshfields, 55 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Entries will be accepted until November 30, 1991.

6. A competition booklet is available on 071-832 7546.

Lifting the prejudice that bars the careers of black barristers

THE Bar's race relations committee has come up with proposals described variously as "the most radical equal opportunities policy of any profession" and as a disguised quota system, "doomed to failure by the ambitious and talented black barrister".

The most important proposal is that at least 5 per cent of tenants in all chambers should be from ethnic minorities. The Bar Council will decide on the proposal this week.

In 1989, half of all chambers had no ethnic minority tenants, 53 per cent of non-white barristers were to be found in just 16 sets and there was only one non-white judge and six non-white QCs.

There are many able black practitioners at the Bar but insiders acknowledge that they tend to be judged as a group and not always by the same criteria as their white colleagues. The problem in part can be traced to black barristers' early experiences. Many first-generation black barristers who practised in England faced a hostile, patronising legal establishment. They often met outright prejudice and ignorance and chambers regularly refused them admission on the ground that they would not fit in socially and clerks were reluctant to offer work involving white clients. So they set up their own chambers. These often lacked senior members with connections and they missed out on the best work. In this state of isolation, they acquired the name "ghetto chambers".

The chairman of the Bar, Anthony Scrivener, QC, who supports the 5 per cent proposal, has said that talking about racial discrimination today is like talking about sex in Victorian times. Not all would agree. Today, barristers

will speak of how racist the legal establishment has been.

Should there then be positive discrimination aimed at improving the lot of black barristers and increasing their number at distribution at the Bar, or would such measures lead to a quota system that would leave black barristers open to accusations of tokenism and damage their prospects and reputation?

Sally Barber, one of the few black Chancery barristers, favours "an organic as opposed to imposed solution" and does not want to be a "victim of positive discrimination".



Target: Anthony Scrivener, QC, who supports the 5 per cent proposal, has said that talking about racial discrimination today is like talking about sex in Victorian times. Not all would agree. Today, barristers

Peter Herbert, the chairman of the Society of Black Lawyers and Barristers, says the 5 per cent proposal is essential if any change is to be brought about. What counts, he argues, is whether blacks are getting a fair share of pupillage, tenancies, and work available at the Bar.

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Dynamic is a description which can only truly be attributed to a handful of London law firms. Our medium-sized Client is pre-eminent amongst this small group.

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Technical excellence together with a pro-active approach to practice development are pre-requisites, as is Stock Exchange experience.

This is a rare opportunity suited to individuals with the motivation and ambition to succeed within a commercial environment which has only known success. It will prove irresistible to lawyers hungry for adrenalin led deals, who consider themselves exceptional. The salary and benefits package offered will be high, reflecting the nature of the position on offer and its excellent partnership prospects.

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The firm's client base is strong in quality and quantity, embracing prestigious public and private corporate clients including household names in the insurance and construction fields. Instructions cover a broad range of commercial and high value residential property transactions. The position offers immense scope for cross-selling to the firm's other specialist departments, many of them pre-eminent in their fields. A technical ability to service this diversified client base is essential, as is the flair to lead and build the Department.

Likely to be an existing partner within another leading practice, the successful candidate will have both the ambition and ability to join a fast moving, entrepreneurial environment which combines legal expertise and practice development flair.

In a firm where equity drawings already amply match those of far larger City practices, this is an exceptional opportunity.

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AN ATTRACTIVE STARTING AND PROGRESSIVE SALARY IS OFFERED, WITH EXCELLENT WORKING CONDITIONS AND SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS. PLEASE APPLY IN WRITING, WITH SUPPORTING RESUME, TO THE MANAGER, HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, APPLEBY, SPURLING & KEMPE, P O BOX HM 1179, HAMILTON HM EX, BERMUDA.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM
Department of Adult Education

LECTURER IN LAW TO ACT AS CO-DIRECTOR FOR THE CENTRE FOR LEGAL STUDIES

An opportunity exists for a flexible and innovative lawyer to help develop the University's continuing education programme in legal studies. The applicant will be expected to help organize and teach on courses for the legal profession and business/community groups.

The post is a two-year appointment based in the Department of Adult Education, working closely with a Co-Director in the Department of Law. Some teaching on the undergraduate programme may be available for applicants with appropriate subject interests. Flexible working arrangements may be available to suitably qualified applicants.

The post is available immediately.

Salary will be at an appropriate point within the range £12,086 - £22,311 (under review).

Further details and application forms, returnable not later than 23 October, from the Personnel Office, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD (tel 0522 494948 ext 3355). Ref No 1465.

BBC BBC BBC

Legal & Business Affairs Manager / Assistant Legal & Business Affairs Manager

We have an opening in the Independent Planning Unit to deal with the commissioning of independent productions. An appointment of a qualified lawyer will be made to one or other of the above positions depending upon the quality and level of applicants' post-qualification experience.

You will work as part of a team putting into place the legal and financial arrangements necessary to meet the BBC's commitment to the independent sector and will be responsible for a number of projects spanning development, commissioning, distribution and exploitation agreements.

Salary £16,838 - £31,610 p.a.
For further information about these opportunities, which will be based at Centre House at Wood Lane, White City, West London please contact Emma Cockshutt on 081-576 7297.

For an application form for either of these posts contact (quote ref. 8763/T) BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, London W1A 1AA. Tel: 071-436 6555. Minicom 071-436 6700.

Application forms to be returned by October 23rd.

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A company/commercial lawyer with a minimum of 1 year's ppe is sought by a blue-chip City firm for a refreshingly broad range of work. Strong academic record and sound experience essential. Ref: 4592

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Thriving City firm seeks academically strong, commercially-minded lawyer with, ideally, 2-4 years' tax experience for high calibre corporate tax with international emphasis. Premium City salary offered. Ref: 2926

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Market leader in venture capital seeks further ambitious lawyer with 2-4 years' ppe. Advises major domestic and international venture and development capital funds. First class prospects. Ref: 5276

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Alistair Dougall on 071-405 6062 (071-831 0030 evenings/weekends), or write to Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.

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COMPLIANCE OFFICER To £55,000
In-house compliance experience essential for challenging role in international finance house. Work covers very broad spectrum of regulatory matters with great deal of client contact. At least 3 years' ppe and good academic background required. Challenging role. Ref: 5900

COMPLIANCE To £35,000
Junior compliance officer sought to join London based team in international bank. Previous regulatory experience preferred in candidates with at least one year's ppe. Outgoing personality and enthusiasm a must. Ref: 5223

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LITIGATION LAWYERS

To meet Prettys' continued expansion we are seeking to recruit ambitious and talented litigation solicitors in the following areas:

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Two lawyers with up to five years' experience and an aggressive and commercial approach

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A lawyer with up to five years' experience in both Insurance Defendant and Plaintiff work.

These challenging posts offer excellent salaries and outstanding prospects for candidates of exceptional calibre.

Please contact Ian Worthington (Commercial) or Clive Brynley Jones (Personal Injury) at Elm House, 25 Elm Street, Ipswich IP1 2AD telephone: (0473) 232121

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The Halifax's position as one of the most successful and progressive financial organisations in the UK is due to our ability to react quickly and effectively to the constant changes in the financial market. To satisfy the demands we face, we continue to expand across all divisions within the Halifax group and our legal department is no exception. Providing comprehensive, high quality advice on all issues relating to our activities, it has trebled in size over the last six years.

We are now looking for a solicitor or barrister to fill a newly created post working alongside a senior member of our legal team. You will provide advice relating to UK retail banking, Financial Services Act products such as unit trusts and PEPs, secured domestic lending and retail banking in other EC countries and our own wholesale funding activities. You will work with non legal specialists in the Halifax in developing our services and products in these areas and play an important part in negotiations with joint venture partners, as well as preparing agreements with them. The work will also include considering UK and EC regulatory matters and competition laws. Based near Leeds - now the country's second largest legal centre - you'll prosper in a stimulating environment offering both an incomparable variety of work and unlimited scope to maximise your potential.

Relevant experience of all these areas isn't essential providing you are able to assimilate the commercial and practical aspects of our business and work effectively in a professional multi-disciplined team. In addition to one to two years' post qualification experience, you'll have the enthusiasm, drive and tenacity to enable you to meet the demands of this high profile role. You'll also be eager to expand on your capabilities.

We're offering a competitive salary together with excellent training and an attractive benefits package which includes a mortgage concession, contributory pension scheme, BUPA and relocation allowance where appropriate.

For further details, write with your CV marked 'Private' and quoting current salary details to Chris Jowett, Group Solicitor, Halifax Building Society, Trinity Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 2RG.



WILTSHIRE
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Are you happy to handle a broad range of matters?
Would you like to develop a Commercial Practice?
Do call me, Stuart Kellier, on 0249 730747 to discuss. My client will consider a broad range of Solicitors for this key post in the firm. (Fax 0249 730769).

Michael Page Legal Litigation

The recent acceleration in litigation activity has led to an increase in the number of opportunities for commercial litigation solicitors, including those with specialised experience. These positions represent a small selection of current opportunities. For further information on these or any other vacancies, or for an informal career chat with one of our consultants, please telephone 071-831 2000 or write to them at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Details will be held in strict confidence and will not be released to our clients without express prior permission.

Our client, a leading investment bank is seeking a hard-hitting litigator with at least three years' post-qualification experience for a challenging European role. The workload will involve monitoring European regulatory developments, resolving regulatory disputes, as well as some general commercial litigation. Previous experience of regulatory disputes and of dealing with the commodity/equity markets advantageous. The role will involve frequent European travel.
Contact: Brian Hall

Our client is a well-established medium-sized City firm with a successful commercial litigation department. The property litigation team seeks to recruit a bright young lawyer to handle a caseload comprising commercial, property/landlord and tenant litigation. With up to two years' relevant experience, the successful candidate must have a genuine interest in specialising in this field, although there may also be the opportunity to handle some general commercial litigation.
Contact: Bridget O'Hare

Our client is a major international City firm with a thriving litigation practice. A recent increase in activity has led to the requirement to recruit two further assistant solicitors with around three years' experience in high quality commercial and/or banking litigation. The successful candidates will ideally have good academic backgrounds and City training. Salary and prospects are excellent.
Contact: Bridget O'Hare

Our client, a well-established, vigorously progressive firm situated in central Ipswich, is currently seeking to expand their commercial litigation department. To this effect, they are looking to recruit solicitors at both the junior and senior level, with good City experience, to deal with a wide ranging commercial litigation caseload. Successful applicants will be offered excellent prospects and a salary package commensurate with experience.
Contact: Sue Kensch

Michael Page Legal
International Recruitment Consultants
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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Central London - 3PQE+

Our Client is a well known Central London practice with a well established and expanding Property Department servicing the needs of its impressive commercial client base.

They now wish to recruit an additional Solicitor with at least three years relevant post-qualification experience, gained with a Central London practice. The job will involve the full range of commercial property transactions. A good knowledge of development and secured lending would be an advantage but is not essential.

The successful applicant will have a good intellect, excellent technical and drafting skills, be client-presentable and able to maintain a sense of humour under pressure. A highly competitive salary is offered.

If you would like to be considered for this challenging position contact Simon Lipson, a Solicitor.



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Salary up to £25,500 or pro rata for the part-time post

Following a restructuring in the Department, we have two vacancies for Senior Solicitors in the Planning and Highways section.

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Primarily working on Planning and Rights of Way matters, you should have some knowledge of the relevant law and practice and be looking to extend your knowledge and experience.

(20 Hours per week)
Experienced in Highway law and practice, you must be capable of dealing with complex schemes and supervising the work of others.

Both these posts offer opportunities beyond the specific duties allocated to them. You must, therefore, be flexible and prepared to respond to the demands of both Planning and Highway work.

We can offer you an excellent working environment, a generous relocation package, including 100% removal and resettlement allowances and a generously subsidised car leasing or loan scheme.

For further details about either of the posts, please contact David Mullen, Senior Assistant County Secretary, on 0243 777910, or for a job description and application form please telephone Jim Cattenmull 0243 777201 or write to the County Secretary, County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RQ.

Closing date: Friday 25th October 1991.



west sussex

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

LONDON: 74 Long Lane, London EC1A 9ET MANCHESTER: 53 Princess Street, Manchester M2 4EQ

Salaries in Industry

We have just completed our 1991 salary survey of lawyers in industry, and will publish it later this month. Free copies will be distributed to all those who took part.

It will surprise no-one to learn that the average rate of salary increases has slowed down. Last year it was 15%; this year it is 9%. The highest salaries in our survey are those for the top 10% of Senior Legal Advisers aged 45-55: the average is £171,633 pa. The lowest figures are for the bottom 10% of Legal Assistants aged 25-29 who earn on average £22,436. In the middle, typical remuneration for in-house lawyers in their early thirties would be £50,000 pa.

Taking the survey as a whole, average earnings of the junior category (Legal Assistants) is £45,081 pa. The middle category, Legal Advisers, earn an average of £58,979 pa; and the senior category (Senior Legal Advisers) earn an average of £86,120 pa. These figures exclude pensions and share option schemes, which can be of substantial value. (At the senior level the share scheme would add around £7,500 pa.)

The highest-paying industry this year is banking (6% above general manufacturing). Next is oil, followed by telecommunications and leisure. At the bottom of the table, again, is construction (only 84% of general manufacturing). Also relatively low is financial services (80% of the manufacturing level).

There are about three times as many solicitors as barristers employed in industry, according to our survey, but no significant difference is shown in their salaries. More details will be published in this column next week.

Michael Chambers

INDUSTRY & BANKING

FINANCE: CITY
£40,000 +
Solicitor or barrister with at least 2 yrs' experience of investment and securities law to join leading international finance house.

PENSIONS: SOUTH EAST
to £30,000 + benefits
Lawyer or experienced Legal Executive with knowledge of pensions work to join the legal department of a leading consultancy.

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We have been handling sensitive career moves at partnership level for over 10 years and understand the need for confidentiality.

LONDON

Company/Commercial: City
2-4 yrs qual. Broad range of high-quality work with North American flavour. Mid-sized firm.

Professional Indemnity: City
2-4 yrs qual litigator for major firm to handle professional indemnity work.

Construction Law: Holborn
2-5 yrs qual sol for non-contentious construction law with well-known construction practice.

Property Litigation: Holborn
1-3 yrs qual litigator for major firm to handle the whole range of commercial property litigation.

Banking Lawyers: City
2-5 yrs qual. Leading mid-sized firm. Lending, project & trade finance, restructuring, etc.

Corporate Tax: City
Excellent plship prospects in expanding dept for 2-5 yrs qualified expert corporate tax lawyer.

No CVs sent out without candidate's prior consent.

PROVINCES

Commercial Property: Partner Designate
Senior sol sought by medium-sized city-centre firm to head up (and develop) property dept.

Commercial Property: Kent
Highly-regarded firm seeks sol ideally 2-3 yrs' exp. Expanding dept & prestigious clientele.

Head of Conveyancing: Surrey
Sol with commercial and residential property exp to head up busy dept. Genuine prospects.

Matrimonial: Norfolk
Matrimonial sol, c 2 yrs qual, for large est'd firm. All aspects of family law, inc child-care.

Civil Litigation: Hampshire
Several openings for young sols NQ-3 yrs qual. Varied caseload, inc PI, insolvency & matrimonial.

Litigation Partner: Birmingham
Est'd city-centre firm seeks exp'd civil litigator to handle quality caseload and manage dept.

London: 071 - 606 9371 (Fax: 071 - 600 1793) Manchester: 061 - 228 2122 (Fax: 061 - 228 2213)

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Robert Walters Associates is one of Europe's leading legal recruitment consultancies. Our fast growing network of European offices enables us to provide Pan-European solutions to the needs of our clients, many of whom are amongst the World's leading companies.

Our growth record is exceptional and attributable to the outstanding ability and dedication of our consultants, complemented by advanced recruitment techniques and the successful exploitation of sophisticated computer technology.

We are currently handling a number of assignments requiring continentally qualified lawyers to service our clients' needs throughout the UK and mainland Europe and require an international consultant to add to the team. We would like to hear from individuals who are at least 25 years of age with the following attributes:

- A legal background preferably including some experience of working outside the UK.

- Fluency in at least two European languages (including English).
- Intelligence, commitment, self motivation and ambition.
- The ability to work productively within a team environment.

After an initial training period in London, the successful applicant will be responsible for the development of an individual portfolio of corporate clients, as well as being encouraged to contribute to new marketing initiatives and growth of international business. Willingness to travel is very important, as we place great emphasis upon seconding staff to our overseas offices.

We, in turn, can offer one of the most comprehensive remuneration packages in the industry, including high basic salary, quarterly bonus, company car and mortgage subsidy schemes.

For further information, please contact Jayne Bowtell LLB (Hons), on 071-579 3333 (fax: 071-915 3714), or write enclosing a current Curriculum Vitae, to Robert Walters Associates, 25 Bedford Street, London WC2E 9EP.

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£40-45,000 Package

Egham, Surrey

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Working with a small Head Office legal team based in Egham, Surrey, the appointee will report to the Vice President and General Counsel who manages the Legal and Client Relations Departments. You will be responsible primarily for two areas of activity:

- the provision of legal advice and research in respect of product related matters and, in particular, to the Company's Product Development Design, Feasibility and Implementation Group; and
- the provision of legal, technical and compliance advice to the Company's various Marketing and Sales areas including the participation in the development of our

Acuma

An American Express company

range of unique Personal Financial Plans. You will also assist in the preparation of marketing materials and the implementation of marketing programmes.

In addition, as part of The American Express General Counsel's Office, you will also have the opportunity to liaise with American Express Lawyers worldwide and, in particular, those in the Law Department of our sister Company based in Minneapolis.

Applications are invited from lawyers (either Barristers or Solicitors) with a minimum of 3 years' relevant experience in a fast moving financial services legal department. The successful candidate will have an in-depth knowledge of the legal and compliance aspects of the products offered by such companies and, in particular, will have a thorough knowledge of pensions and insurance legislation. Of course, equally important are communications skills, commercial awareness, initiative and drive. A sense of humour also helps!

Prospects for accelerated career development in a Company expanding as rapidly as Acuma are excellent.

For further information please contact Paul Lewis or Nick Root on 071-936 2565 (evenings/weekends 081-542 8337) Fax: 071-936 2463

TAYLOR • ROOT

CV including details of current salary and benefits to Taylor Root, Tudor House, 107 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3AB

LEGAL RECRUITMENT AGENTS

EEC COMPETITION LAW To £45,000

An individualist lawyer qualified in the U.K. or another E.E.C. jurisdiction with 2-4 years' E.E.C. experience, a working knowledge of competition economics, and ideally, fluent French, is sought for our Client firm, which is one of the leading international trade practices in the City. It has a particular reputation for its marine, commodities, aviation and insurance expertise.

The E.E.C. Unit advises the firm's extensive international clientele (90% non-U.K. based) on a host of different issues with particular emphasis on the E.E.C. competition rules in the marine and aviation sector and E.E.C. external trading agreements, as well as public international law and the European Convention of Human Rights.

The successful candidate, as No.2 in the E.E.C. Unit, will enjoy extensive client contact and the opportunity of developing the practice of the Unit.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact: Jonathan Macrae on 071-377 0510 (081-672 8340 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Zarak Macrae Brenner, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY.

ZMB

ZARAK
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Administration Manager

Jubilee Line Extension Project

c. £45k

The Jubilee Line Extension is one of the most vital construction projects of the 90s. Costing over £1 billion, it will significantly improve transport conditions from Docklands to the heart of the Capital. To manage all the administrative aspects of such a prestigious and challenging project, we need a professional of exceptional calibre.

As a senior member of the project's management team, you will influence key decisions, provide the Project Director and other members of the Committee with advice on commercial matters and pay vigilant attention to safety controls. Supported by a team of managers, you will also be directly accountable for all administrative, personnel, property, parliamentary, systems and procedural issues, and a total of some 75 staff.

At least 15 years' relevant experience, most recently in the construction industry, should provide us with convincing proof of your commercial astuteness, communication skills and leadership flair. Membership of the ICSA would be an advantage and legal qualifications would be favourably considered.

For further information about this appointment, on a 2 year renewable contract, and the impressive benefits that accompany it, please send your CV and daytime telephone number quoting reference UOV/59 to Peter Bulman, Management Recruitment, London Underground Limited, Ground Floor, Broadway Buildings, 50-64 Broadway, London SW1H 0BD.

Working Towards Equality

LAWYER

Swiss Bank Corporation is a AAA rated international bank offering a full range of high quality investment banking services to clients through its global network.

Continued growth of the bank's Capital Markets activities has created a new position within the Legal Department in London.

The work involves giving advice on the structuring and implementation of transactions for the Capital Markets area and drafting and reviewing related documentation. You will work closely with originators and enjoy significant client contact requiring strong negotiating skills.


You will be a solicitor with at least 2 years post qualification experience with a financial institution or law firm of capital market products including Euro

Commercial Paper, Swaps and Bonds.

Your results-orientated approach will enable you to develop this excellent career opportunity to its full potential within a bank committed to success in the 1990's. A competitive salary will be augmented by a full range of banking benefits.

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Karen Gwynn
Human Resources
Swiss Bank Corporation
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 Swiss Bank Corporation
Schweizerischer Bankverein
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Firm of United States lawyers seeks Associate with at least 2 years' corporate, securities or banking experience in a major city practice in the United States for a position in London

Send resume to:
Gottesman Jones & Partners
Aldwych House, Aldwych
London WC2B 4HN
Attention: Mr. C.A. Hulton

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HEALTH AUTHORITY
and
FAMILY HEALTH
SERVICES AUTHORITY

Quality Assurance Manager/Nurse Adviser
or alternatively
Quality Assurance Manager

Salary - Senior Managers Pay within the range of £23,480 to £26,410 depending on experience, plus PRP and lease car.

This joint appointment provides an excellent opportunity to take a leading role in developing quality assurance work throughout the Health Services on the Island, as well as offering quality of life by living here.

Apart from having a good track record of achievement in quality assurance within the NHS, we are looking for good communication skills and the ability to maintain credibility with a wide range of health care professions. You will be expected to achieve significant advances in quality and standards of care for all client groups.

The post provides an excellent career development path for someone with considerable experience, but we would equally consider those with less experience and offer a personal development scheme to assist subsequent career plans.

Although the post envisages including a nurse advisory role, applications from other professions will also be welcomed.

For an informal discussion or personal visit, please contact David Westall - Director of Planning & Contracts - Tel: 0983 526011 ext 224.

For further details and an application form please contact Mrs Margaret Lofting - Deputy Personnel Manager. Tel: 0983 526011 ext 202, or write to the Personnel Department, Whitecroft, Sandy Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 3ED. Closing date October 21 1991.

THE CHAMBERS OF JAMES MULCAHY Q.C. 3 GRAY'S INN SQUARE

We are a busy common law chambers with a modern approach to practice, seeking applications from established practitioners. Chambers has 17 members and hopes to expand to 25 or more with a view to promoting the development of groups within chambers specialising in crime, family, personal injury, employment, property and domestic commercial law. Applications are invited from individuals or groups.

Chambers has pleasant and spacious accommodation, is equipped with modern technology and is managed through an elected management committee.

Applications in confidence to:

Peter Leighton, 3 Gray's Inn Square, London WC1R 5AH

THE CHAMBERS OF MR. N.F. RIDDLE

Due to pressure of work these well-established general Chancery Chambers have a vacancy for an able junior tenant with a good academic record. The applicant should be near the end, or just out of, pupillage.

Please apply in writing with CV to: Mr. N.F. Riddle, 2nd Floor, 7, Queen Avenue, Liverpool L2 4TZ.

LEEDS

Debt Collection Lawyer
(0-2 yrs PQE)
URGENTLY REQUIRED

We are retained by a dynamic mid sized Leeds practice who are urgently seeking an assistant solicitor to handle defended debt matters, some advocacy, order 14 and interlocking matters. An ambitious young lawyer with good communication skills is sought. This highly successful practice offer an excellent career package in conjunction with the most up to date IT and working conditions. For further details call Mark Smille at Barclay House Appointments on 011 236 9229 between 8.30am & 8.00pm

WEST CHESHIRE. Long term/short term work and road traffic claims based on senior role for this busy well established firm. For full details call Mark Smille on 011 236 9229 at Barclay House Appointments between 8.30am and 8.00pm.

SENIOR solicitor 'and' position where his wide all round experience would be used to advise on a variety of issues in order to secure a part of equity and share of goodwill in an established firm. Criminal and Chancery Law firm are served. Reply to Box No 5639

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Closing date: 18th October 1991.

Subsonic to spark double for Dunlop

JOHN Dunlop is always a strong challenger for the autumn prizes and at Redcar today I expect the Arundel trainer to collect a double with Subsonic (3.15) and Leap In The Dark (3.45).

Subsonic, a fast-improving young stayer, was one of the horses that enabled Willie Carson to land a five-timer at Newcastle a week ago, cruising clear to beat Apache Prince by five lengths.

With Carson on duty at Warwick, John Reid comes in for the ride today and Subsonic is napped to confirm his superiority over Apache Prince.

The Dunlop family must have been delighted with the debut performance of Leap In The Dark at Sandown last month. Running in the colours of Dunlop's wife, Susan,

the Shaded colt ran on strongly to get within a length of Henry Cecil's highly-regarded King's Lock in the Reference Point Stakes.

Leap In The Dark has been given a fine opportunity of opening his account in the Pickering Maiden Auction Stakes, although Steve Norton's Feeling Foolish has shown consistent form in his three outings.

Dance On Sixpence, who won so well for Hugh Collingridge in a competitive handicap at Sandown last time out, can follow up in the Scarborough Handicap at the expense of Reprise.

At Warwick, Michael Stoute can capture the opening event, the Brinklow Maiden Stakes, with Haymarket, who was just

touched off by Showgi at Redcar last month.

The second division of this event can go to Dick Hearn's Paper Knife, who showed up prominently for a long way before finishing sixth behind Shrewd Partner on his debut at Kempton recently.

Baneshank, although no match for Captain Horatius at Haydock last time out, can get back on the winning trail for Roger Charlton in the Allied Dumber Nursery.

Ian Balding's Saratoga Source, a creditable third behind Tarwiga at Leopardstown in August, can make his experience tell in the Home On The Range Stakes.

At Folkestone, John Gosden's Doubles, who has twice been beaten by Elfinash, each time by a head, can open his account in the Levy Board Maiden Stakes.

FOLKESTONE

MANDARIN

1.50 Wave Master, 2.20 My Ruby Ring, 2.50 Lady Sabre, 3.20 Master Eurolink, 3.50 Swellgait, 4.20 Doubles, 4.50 Munday Dean.

THUNDERER

1.50 Thunder Bug, 2.20 Offshore Tryst, 2.50 Queen's Tickle, 3.20 Master Eurolink, 3.50 Swellgait, 4.20 Doubles, 4.50 Fluidity.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:

3.50 SWELLGANT (nap), 4.20 Doubles.

GOING: GOOD

DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

1.50 SEEDSCOMB SELLING STAKES

(£2,549: 1m 11 1/4yds) (15 runners)

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3 0044 WAVE MASTER 14 (P.) P. Jones 4-90
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11 0044 WAVE MASTER 14 (P.) P. Jones 4-90
12 0044 WAVE MASTER 14 (P.) P. Jones 4-90
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15 0044 WAVE MASTER 14 (P.) P. Jones 4-90

2.20 BREDE APPRENTICES HANDICAP

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3 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
4 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
5 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
6 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
7 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
8 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
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2.50 NORTHAM NURSERY HANDICAP

(£3,559: 6f) (20)

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15 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13

3.20 EBF HURST GREEN MAIDEN STAKES

(£2-Y.O. colts & geldings: £2,300: 8f) (9)

1 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
2 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
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7 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
8 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
9 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13

3.50 EBF ASHFORO MAIDEN STAKES

(£2-Y.O. fillies: £2,407: 5f) (18)

1 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
2 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
3 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
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15 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
16 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
17 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
18 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13

4.20 LEVY BOARD MAIDEN STAKES

(£2-Y.O. fillies: £2,772: 1m 4f) (19)

1 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
2 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
3 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
4 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
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18 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
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4.50 ROBERTS HANDICAP

(£2,804: 1m 4f) (20)

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2 0044 SHIRAZ'S SON 15 (P.) J. White 4-90, J. Fordham 13
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